



VILLAGE OF PINECREST
Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Councilmember Cheri Ball is accepted into the Good Government Initiative's Leaders of Excellence Program

Pinecrest, FL – Councilmember Cheri Ball has been selected to join Class V of the [Leaders of Excellence](#) program at the Good Government Initiative at the University of Miami.

The program, now in its fifth year, has granted certificates to 69 elected officials including School Board Member Raquel Regalado, City of Miami Commissioner Francis Suarez, State Representative Holly Raschein, State Representative David Richardson, Congressman Carlos Curbelo, and State Senator Dwight Bullard. The 2015 class is comprised of 17 elected officials including two school board members and municipal officials from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties.

Councilmember James E. McDonald completed the program as a member of the 2014 class. Former Vice Mayor Joseph M. Corradino completed the program in 2012.

Leaders of Excellence is the Government Initiative's cornerstone program designed to provide elected officials with educational opportunities that they can apply toward their public service. It fills the gap between formal education and life experience to mold more effective decision-makers. Additionally, the *Leaders of Excellence* program creates a network of peers who can rely on each other for shared ideas and support. The mission is to cultivate leaders of excellence in South Florida through development and training, as well as engage the community in its governance through outreach and education.

By participating in *Leaders of Excellence*, a voluntary 60-hour certificate program, elected officials devote their personal time and make an extra commitment to their duties in office.



In understanding that there are aspects to effective public service that are not automatically conveyed to candidates once they are sworn in, these leaders are reaching for the additional knowledge and tools necessary to be successful leaders.

“Our goal was to assemble a class that would add to our cohort of active, engaged leaders from South Florida who are eager to work with others and to develop knowledge and skills in governance. They represent the future of leadership in South Florida,” Sorenson said.

The 2015 program will kick off with an opening dinner and keynote address from Florida International University Professor and Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Pedro J. Greer, MD, hosted at The Little Haiti Cultural Center. Other program speakers and presenters include: former US Senators Bob Graham and George LeMieux, political reporter Glenna Milberg, Lynn University Professor Robert Watson, PhD, and Shannon Estenoz, Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives for the Department of Interior.

The Good Government Initiative offers programs for elected officials, candidates, and interested citizens throughout the year. From community forums that delve into topical issues facing South Florida, to candidate education and the Leaders of Excellence Program, the Government Initiative works to promote excellence in government. The initiative is independently incorporated with its own board and advisers and is housed and supported by the University of Miami, the Miami Foundation and valued donors and volunteers.

Former Miami-Dade Commissioner Katy Sorenson founded the Good Government Initiative at the University of Miami in 2010. After 16 years of service as a County Commissioner representing District 8, Sorenson launched the Government Initiative which offers programs for elected officials, candidates, and citizens throughout the year. Sorenson created the *Leaders of Excellence* program for elected officials, and works to promote excellence and integrity in South Florida government.

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