

Governing Boards - Florida State University's Board of Trustees

Florida State University's Board of Trustees

Peter Collins (Chair), of Tampa, is Co-Founder and Managing Principal of Forge Capital Partners, LLC ("Forge"). Mr. Collins directs all private equity activities for Forge and is the CEO of Forge's real estate private equity fund business. Over the last 20 years, Mr. Collins has overseen more than \$1.5 billion of real estate and corporate transactions including over eight million square feet of commercial and residential real estate development/acquisitions/dispositions. Peter is a Trustee of the Florida State University ("FSU") Foundation and recently completed a 2-year term as Chair of the FSU Endowment. Peter is a member of the Executive Committee of the FSU College of Business Board of Governors.

Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz (Vice Chair), of Miami, was appointed to the Florida State University ("FSU") Board of Trustees by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 10, 2021. She works as an attorney at the Holland & Knight law firm and serves as the firmwide deputy section leader of the Real Estate Section. She received her bachelor's degree from FSU and her law degree from Tulane University. Outside of FSU, de las Cuevas-Diaz serves on the board of the Coral Gables Community Foundation and as a board member of the Miami-Dade Beacon Council.

Maximo Alvarez, born in Havana, Cuba, received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University in 1969 and his master's degree in 1970. Maximo founded Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, Inc, and grew the company from four gas stations to over 300 locations and supplies another 250 branded retail facilities. Because of his humble beginnings, Maximo has always believed in helping the community as well as the industry in which he has spent most of his career. Maximo has been involved in the Florida Petroleum Marketers Association and was elected Chairman of the Board in 2000 and inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2005. Maximo has been married to his wife, Esther, for over forty years, and they have three children.

Kathryn Ballard, of Tallahassee, has a long history of charitable and community work, including service on the Board of Directors of the Florida Special Olympics, the Florida State University College of Human Sciences Board, and the Board of Trustees of the Maclay School of Tallahassee. She also served as Chairman of the Maclay School Capital Campaign. Mrs. Ballard has been honored for Outstanding Achievement by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and the Tallahassee/Leon County Historic Preservation Commission for her efforts to restore Tallahassee's historic Lively House. Mrs. Ballard graduated from Florida State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Human Sciences.

Jorge Gonzalez, of Walton County, is the president and chief executive of The St. Joe Company, a Florida-based real estate development and operating company with additional interests in resorts, leisure, and forestry. Jorge holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University. He serves or has served on various community, civic, and business-related organizations including the Florida Chamber Board of Directors, Enterprise Florida Board of Directors, Bay Economic Development Alliance (current Chairman), Northwest Florida Manufacturer's Council, Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center, FSU Panama City Development Board (former President), The St. Joe Community Foundation Board of Trustees, and Panama City Beach Chamber Board of Directors. Jorge is married to Pamela, who is also a proud FSU graduate, and they have one son, Jake.

Jim Henderson, of Longwood, is Chairman, CEO, and Founder of AssuredPartners, a national insurance brokerage firm. Prior to establishing AssuredPartners in March of 2011, Jim Henderson brought his insurance expertise to Brown & Brown when he joined the company as its CFO in 1985. Jim served in a variety of roles including President and Chief Operating Officer as well as Vice Chairman. Jim is a graduate of Florida State University with a BSBA in Accounting and Economics. Jim and his wife, Carole, have three children and eight grandchildren that all reside in Florida.

Roxanne Hughes, of Tallahassee, joined the faculty of Florida State University in 2012 as Research faculty at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and became an Associate Professor of Science Education in 2024. She is committed to bridging departmental silos and supporting faculty. Her roles at FSU and the MagLab demonstrate her dedication to problem-solving and collaboration. Hughes has extensive experience in STEM education, focusing on STEM identity. Her research has influenced STEM policies and programs, earning her recognition as a Fellow of the AAAS and leadership roles in various organizations. She currently serves as FSU Faculty Senate President.

Peter Jones, of Clearwater, graduated from FSU with a Bachelor of Science in accounting in 1977. He has extensive experience in senior executive roles, including Chairman of Franklin Templeton Institutional, LLC, and President of Franklin Templeton Distributors, Inc. After retirement, he taught finance classes at FSU's study abroad program. In 2018, he was inducted into the FSU College of Business Hall of Fame. Jones has served on various FSU boards and continues to be actively involved. He also chairs the State of Florida Pension Investment Advisory Council and serves as an independent trustee of MFS Investment Management.

Justin Roth, of Miami, FL, is a partner at LINK Public Affairs, where he leads the Washington, D.C. office and provides strategic advice and counsel to clients on public affairs matters. Roth is a seasoned political and policy professional with expertise in legislative strategies, critical domestic policy matters and foreign affairs. He has more than two decades of experience in government affairs and lobbying for multiple trade organizations.

Deborah Sargeant, of Gulf Stream, is a Florida native who spent three years at Florida State University before finishing her bachelor's degree in accounting at California State University Long Beach. She is a former member of the Governor's Mansion Commission and volunteers her time with the Bethesda Hospital Foundation, Cason United Methodist Church, and the Delray Beach Historical Society.

John Thiel, of Florida, is an FSU alumnus and former Merrill Lynch executive. Thiel is a dynamic board director, trusted business advisor, and visionary financial services CEO. During his 28-year career with Merrill Lynch, Thiel served as head of U.S. Global Wealth Management, steering the iconic financial firm through a period of unprecedented change, including its acquisition by Bank of America and overseeing a \$15 billion business with 23,000 employees.

Drew Weatherford, of Tampa, is a Founding Partner of Weatherford Capital, a private investment firm focused on growth equity in tech businesses. Prior to this, Weatherford co-founded Strategos Group, a leading business consultancy and advocacy firm in Florida. Drew led the Florida State University football team for three years as starting quarterback for the Seminoles and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and Real Estate. He then went on to earn an MBA from Northwestern University.

Carson Dale, of Columbia, Missouri, Florida State University's student body president, is the 13th member of the Board of Trustees.

Online Resource: The Florida State University Board of Trustee's website can be accessed online at trustees.fsu.edu
