

AUGUST 2025



LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



A WARM ALUMNI WELCOME TO AMBER DUCOTE!

LEADERShip Martin County Alumni hosted a special breakfast event to get to know the new LEADERShip Martin County Program Director, Amber Ducote.

It was a great turnout at the 10th Street Community Center, where attendees had the opportunity to hear from Amber, ask questions and share insights.

We're just a few weeks from welcoming Class 35 to LEADERShip Martin County - and the future is bright!

Special thanks to Joanna Greene and Stacy Little for sharing your photos and to City of Stuart Community Services for always being such wonderful hosts!



Meet the President!



KATE MUSCARELLA, CLASS 29

Business Manager
EW Consultants, Inc.

Hometown: Freehold, NJ

Current City: Hobe Sound

How long have you lived in the area? **13 years in Martin County, 16 in Florida**

Tell us about your current organization and your position.

EW Consultants, Inc. has been in business for over 30 years, offering Natural Resource Management, Wetland and Environmental Permitting Services. As the business manager I handle all business-related tasks from invoicing and accounts payable/receivable to contract renewals and business compliance.

What is your favorite part about doing LEADERShip Martin County?

The relationships and camaraderie that you gain during the program and the "behind the scenes" look into the community where I live and work.

What advice would you give the incoming LEADERShip Class?

I was told that you will get out of the program what you put into it. That statement is absolutely true. Keep an open mind, embrace the experience, and you will be that much better for it in the end.

Where are we most likely to find you when you're not at work?

In the summer time, somewhere near water or a home project indoors. In the winter time, enjoying the outdoors with my family.

Fun Facts

Favorite Local Restaurant:

Harry and the Natives

Favorite Place in Martin County:

Seabranh Preserve State Park

Favorite TV Show and/or Movie:

The Office and Dragonfly

Favorite Band or Music Genre:

Country Music

Favorite Sport: ***Hockey***

Kids: ***3 Daughters: Jeanine (20),***

Joelle (18) and Julianna (14)

Pets: ***2 Boxers: Oscar and Ozzie***

2025-2026

LEADERSHIP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kate Muscarella

Vice President: Christina Hunter

Treasurer: David Sarno

Recording Secretary: Jon Milton

Corresponding Secretary: Charlene Lyons

Directors

Lisa Conway, Joanna Greene,
Patrick Nolan, Christen Spake, Sally Waite

Ex Officio

Chelsey Matheson,
Immediate Past President
Amber Ducote,
LEADERShip Program Director
Chris Vaccaro,
Class 34 Representative

COMMUNITY CORNER

By: Samantha Suffich (Class 30)



As the Chief Executive Officer of Martin County Healthy Start Coalition and the Treasure Coast Maternity Center, I'm thrilled to share how our organizations are advancing maternal and infant health in Martin County, building one family at a time for multi-generational impact.

Healthy Start serves as the safety net for pregnant women, new parents, and babies in Martin County. Our mission is to ensure that every baby is born healthy, every mother is supported, and every father is involved. Through comprehensive home visitation programs, care coordination, screenings, basic needs supports, parenting education, and mental health support, we serve hundreds of families every year.

Recognizing the gaps in access to maternity care, we launched the Treasure Coast Maternity Center in 2023, with a bold vision: to reduce the burden on our healthcare system and improve birth outcomes by offering direct prenatal care on the MOM Mobile: Maternity on the Move. Thanks to the advocacy of Representative Toby Overdorf and Senator Gayle Harrell, we secured state legislative funding to bring a brighter vision to life, a comprehensive maternity center, where families across the region will benefit for generations to come.

We also serve as a hub for community support—offering childbirth and lactation classes, diaper distribution, Medicaid enrollment, doula services, and tangible goods for parents in need. We believe healthy beginnings lead to strong futures, and we have the privilege of walking alongside families through one of the most vulnerable and transformational times of their lives.

From our clinical teams to our outreach staff, we are united by a common passion: to nurture a thriving, healthy community from the very start. If you'd like to learn more, volunteer, or donate, visit www.mchealthystart.org or give me a call at 772-463-2888. I'd love to connect and share how you can help change the story for moms and babies in Martin County.

Do you have an update to share about a community initiative? Are you a current Alumni member? We want to hear from you! Contact us at info@leadershipmcalumni.com for more information.

What Leaders Get Wrong About Responsibility

From an article by Pia Lauritzen in *strategy+business*, a pwc publication

Contributed by Tim Kinane

What many leaders get wrong is **HOW** they ask questions and **HOW** they listen to the answers.

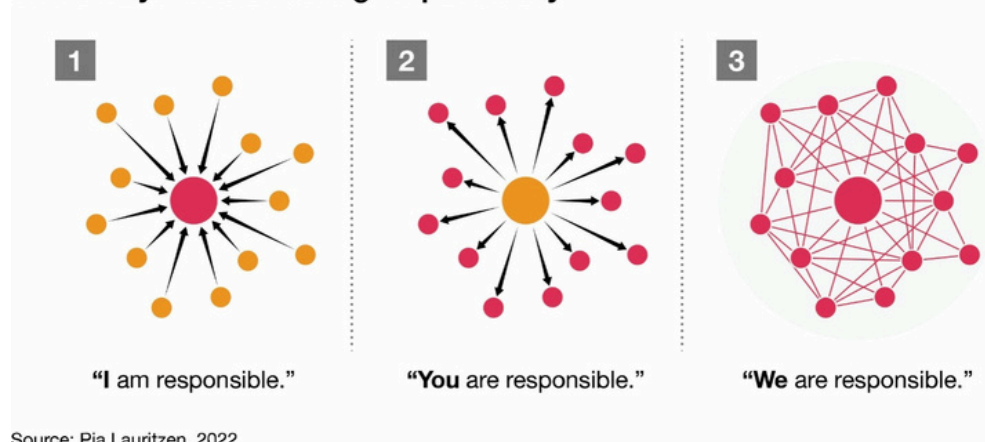
Effective leadership is not about giving or taking responsibility—it's about sharing it through meaningful dialogue, especially by asking questions and listening to the answers.

The problem is that leaders often focus on answering questions rather than asking them. This creates a culture where responsibility is centralized, not distributed. The leader creates a decision-making choke point, inhibiting action, growth, and creativity.

Three Ways Leaders Use Questions:

1. "I am responsible" – Leaders ask questions to confirm their own knowledge or authority.
 - Example: Quiz-like questions that reinforce the leader's viewpoint.
2. "You are responsible" – Leaders ask coaching-style questions to push responsibility onto others.
 - Example: Encouraging employees to find their own solutions.
3. "We are responsible" – Leaders ask collaborative, topic-focused questions that foster shared ownership.
 - Example: "What do we know about our value chain that can help us improve?"

Three ways of distributing responsibility



Using "we" in questions leads to higher engagement, better responses, and more collaboration. Using "we" promotes shared accountability, encourages creative ideas, and provides team members with opportunities for career growth.

What can you do?

Leaders should ask more questions, especially those that invite joint exploration.

Shift from being the sole problem-solver to a facilitator of collective responsibility.

Celebrate the insights from your team and recognize even the small improvements that collaborative efforts produce.

Small changes in how leaders communicate—especially through inclusive questioning—can significantly improve organizational culture and employee engagement.

Source: *What leaders get wrong about responsibility*

AUGUST 2025

Upcoming Events

LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY

ALUMNI
HAPPY
HOUR

AUGUST 5TH
5:00 - 7:00

@ SOUTH FORK
KITCHEN & BAR
900 SE INDIAN ST. STUART, FL

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

WWW.LEADERSHIPMCALUMNI.COM

AUGUST 2025

Upcoming Events



Invites you to meet and mingle
with class 35

SIMSOC SOCIAL

2025 August 23rd, 5:00pm- 7:00pm

FRAZIER CREEK BREWING & DISTILLING CO.
973 SE FEDERAL HWY. STUART, FL 34994



Register to Attend

FREE for active alumni and class 35!

\$10 for inactive alumni / guests

www.leadershipmcalumni.com



**Scan to
register.**



Or visit: bit.ly/3IZW1CI

AUGUST 2025

Upcoming Events



Behind the Badge

the first 252 days
with
Sheriff Budensiek

September 16, 2025

8:30am - 10:30am

724 10th Street Stuart, FL 34997

Registration Necessary

\$15 for active alumni, \$25 for inactive alumni

www.leadershipmcalumni.com



**Scan to
register.**



Or visit: bit.ly/4lfeitjl

Bulletins



Chris Vaccaro (Class 34) and Class 34 Rep recently started a new position as Director of Business Development at The Hope Center for Autism.



Joanna Greene (Class 32) and LEADERship Alumni board member received an Advocacy Award from the Florida Association of Counties.



Job Opening

United Way of Martin County is hiring a Community Impact Manager. Visit unitedwaymartin.org/careers.



Cheree Ramirez (Class 27) recently took a new role as Director of Marketing, Communications & Community Engagement at Helping People Succeed.

We want to share your news!
Contact us at
info@leadershipmcalumni.com.

LEADERship Martin County Alumni

Our Mission:

To inspire continuous professional and personal growth in the LEADERship Martin County community.

Our Vision:

A strong LEADERship Alumni network that nurtures meaningful connections, opportunities and ideas that strengthen the Martin County community and future generations of leaders.

Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST EVENTS

Aug 5 Business Before Breakfast
10th Street Community Center

Aug. 6 Business After Hours
J Michael's Tavern & Grill

Aug. 12 Business Before Breakfast
Barbeque Beer Co.

Aug. 13 Aviation in Martin County
Marriott Hutchinson Island Resort

Aug. 20 Business After Hours
Stuart Corinthian Yacht Club



School starts Aug. 11!