



# LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



## CLASS 35 UPDATE - ENVIRONMENTAL DAY

What an incredible Environmental and Agriculture Day! On February 5, LEADERShip Class 35 took the roads less traveled to explore Martin County gems, including Bull Hammock, US Sugar, the C44 Reservoir, and the Bessey Creek Hybrid Wetland (STA).

Our committee for the day—Eric Kiehn, Pat Nolan, Rick Hartman, and Cindy Groover—was simply stellar. This crew organized a flawless day packed with rare, high-level insights into the agricultural and environmental heartbeat of our community.

A huge shout-out to Tim Kinane, who's Leadership skills presentation served as the perfect anchor for an impactful day!

And in the end, justice was served thanks to Heather Rothe as Sheriff Budensiek and his deputies arrived to "arrest" the entire class! Their sentence? Serving time via ride-alongs this month as they gear up for Public Safety Day!



## Meet the Corresponding Secretary!



### CHARLENE LYONS, CLASS 25

President/CEO  
YMCA of the Treasure Coast

Hometown: Kailua, HI

Current City: Palm City

How long have you lived in the area? What brought you here?

**Almost 30 years. I came to the area for college.**

Tell us about your current organization and your position. **The YMCA is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening communities by supporting youth development, promoting healthy living, and fostering social responsibility.**

Do you participate with any other nonprofit organizations as a board member, volunteer and/or donor? **I helped found the Native American Indigenous Resource Network at the National YMCA Office.**

What is your favorite part about doing LEADERShip Martin County? **The relationships that I have built.**

What does "leadership" mean to you? **Leadership, to me, means bringing people together around a shared purpose and empowering them to make our community stronger.**

Where are we most likely to find you when you're not at work? **You will find me running, working out, or with friends and family.**

### Fun Facts

Favorite Local Restaurant:

**District Table**

Favorite Local Band: **Girlfriend Material**

Favorite Sport: **Swimming**

Kids: **Two daughters, 20 & 22**

**I am the first and only Native American CEO for the YMCA in the United States.**

## 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

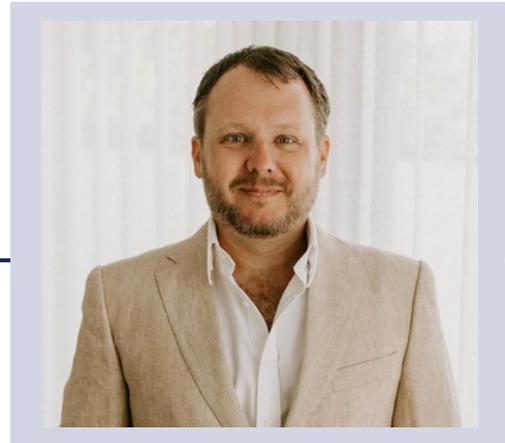
Chelsey Matheson,  
Immediate Past President  
Amber Ducote,  
LEADERShip Program Director  
Chris Vaccaro,  
Class 34 Representative

# IN THE BIZ

## **The ROI of Home Organization**

by Cullen Caston, Class 34

*Closets by Design of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast*



When people hear “custom closets,” they often think luxury. In reality, well-designed storage is one of the most practical investments a homeowner can make.

As a Class 34 alum, and someone who has spent most of my life in Martin County alongside my business partner Jennifer Johnson, this community is home. We grew up here, went to school here, and now have the privilege of serving the same neighborhoods that shaped us. At its core, what we do is simple: we help people take control of and organize their space so they can focus on what matters most.

### **The Financial Value**

Custom storage adds real, measurable value to a home. Updated closets, organized pantries, functional garages, and built-in office spaces are features buyers notice immediately. In competitive markets like ours, homes that show clean, organized, and intentional often photograph better and sell faster. There’s also asset protection. Proper storage preserves clothing, tools, equipment, and personal items from unnecessary wear and damage. Organization isn’t just about appearance. It protects investment.

### **The Daily Value**

The bigger return is experienced every day. Disorganization creates friction. It costs time, increases stress, and adds chaos to already busy schedules. As business owners and leaders, we understand the power of systems. The same principle applies at home. When a closet is designed around how someone actually lives, how they dress, work, store, and move through their day, the space becomes a system. And systems reduce decision fatigue, increase efficiency, and create peace of mind. For many of our clients, that sense of control is the greatest benefit.

### **Built for Our Community**

Homes in coastal Florida have unique needs, from humidity to evolving lifestyle demands. Because we live and work here, we understand those details. Our goal is not just to install shelves. It is to design functional spaces that serve families for years to come.

Strong communities are built on strong homes. If you ever have a client, friend, or neighbor overwhelmed by clutter, renovating, or preparing to sell, we’re always happy to be a resource.

At Closets by Design, what matters to you matters to us.



*Upcoming Events*

LEADERship Martin County Alumni

**LUNCH & LEARN**

**LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Join the Leadership Alumni community for an inside look at how leadership shapes local government.

This session highlights the real-world decision-making, collaboration, and community impact that define effective public service



**GEORGE STOKUS**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CLASS 25

**MARCH 25, 2026**

**12:00 – 2:00**

**724 SE 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
STUART, FL**



**REGISTER  
TODAY!**

\$25 active alumni

\$35 inactive alumni

**REGISTER**

# Bulletins



Chelsey Matheson (Class 30) was recently promoted to **Director of University Communications** at **Florida Atlantic University**.



Angela Aulisio (Class 30) recently launched **Rooted Together** a wellness peer group for partners of first responders.



Amanda Foster (Class 32) was recently sworn in as **Vice President** of the **Palm City Chamber of Commerce** Board of Directors.

## YOUR NEWS HERE

SHARE YOUR UPDATES WITH YOUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY!

[info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com)

## Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

### MARCH EVENTS

**Mar. 6-8** Home, Hurricane & Orchid Show  
*Martin County Fairgrounds*

**Mar. 10** Business B4 Breakfast  
*The Sovana at Stuart*

**Mar. 11** Business at Lunch  
*Sandhill Cove Retirement Living*

**Mar. 17** Business B4 Breakfast  
*The Grace Place*

**Mar. 18** Business After Hours  
*Smyth Engineering*

**Mar. 24** Business B4 Breakfast  
*Chapman School of Seamanship*

## 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.

## Sponsors Needed!

## Annual Installation of Officers Event

Contact  
[info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com)  
to learn more.