

# Governing Boards - Florida State University's Board of Trustees

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## 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.

**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.

**Bridgett Birmingham**, of Tallahassee, joined the faculty of Florida State University in 2004 and currently serves as the Diversity and Inclusion Librarian for the University Libraries. Her research areas are primarily in design strategies for libraries including accessibility and usability of library spaces, services, and staff. She also collaborates with colleagues across her field of academic libraries to improve the leadership pipeline for academic libraries and to develop best practices for shared governance and service for research libraries. She has been a full University Librarian since and was the FSU Fred Standley Librarian of the Year in 2016.

**Vivian de las Cuevas-Diaz**, 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.

**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.

**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.

**Bob Sasser**, of Norfolk, Virginia, is the Chief Executive Officer of Dollar Tree Stores, the nation's largest discount variety store. Bob is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He was inducted into the College of Business Hall of Fame in 2009 and returns to FSU when possible to share his experience and ideas with students and faculty. Bob serves on the FSU Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a lifetime member of the FSU Alumni association, a member of Seminole Boosters, a Double Golden Chief, and a member of the FSU Presidents Club.

**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.

**Jackson "Jack" Hitchcock**, of Gulf Breeze, FL, 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 <http://trustees.fsu.edu/>*