

## MEET FINALISTS FOR 33RD ANNUAL ATHENA AWARDS LUNCHEON

### LEADERSHIP AWARD



Sia Baker - Barnes  
SEARCY DENNEY SCAROLA  
BARNHART & SHIPLEY, PA

Kate Cotner  
FLORIDA POWER  
& LIGHT COMPANY

Kate Arrizza  
COX SCIENCE CENTER  
& AQUARIUM

Faye Johnson  
CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH

Diana Stanley  
THE LORD'S PLACE

Jessica Clasby  
FLORIDA SUGAR CANE LEAGUE

### YOUNG PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



Jennifer Ferriol  
CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH

Holly Goodman  
GUNSTER

Dymond Franklin  
IBM

Camille Murphy-Kubicek  
PIONEER LINENS

Angelica Santibanez  
AMAZON

### ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



**RISK strategies** | **GEHRING GROUP**  
A RISK STRATEGIES COMPANY

**Wellington Regional Medical Center**

**SANelson associates**




Join us in Honoring these amazing women at The Kravis Center for the Performing Arts - Cohen Pavilion on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. For event or sponsorship information, visit [palmbeaches.org](http://palmbeaches.org).

The ATHENA International Leadership Awards honors women who embody the eight tenets of ATHENA Leadership: live authentically, learn consistently, build relationships, foster collaboration, act courageously, advocate fiercely, give back, and celebrate.

**Presenting Sponsor**



**Host Sponsor**



**Heritage Sponsor**



**Organizational Leadership Award Sponsor**

**Young Professional Leadership Award Sponsor**



**Emerald Sponsors**



**Community Partner**



## Vanderbilt University Brings New Downtown Campus



The City of West Palm Beach and the Board of County Commissioners recently took major steps to bring Vanderbilt University to downtown West Palm Beach. Vanderbilt presented their plans to build a 300,000 square foot graduate school campus focused on business, artificial intelligence (AI) and data science in West Palm Beach.

The City voted recently to donate 2 acres and the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to bring back a contract for providing county-owned land for the project by Oct. 8. An economic impact study has indicated that the new graduate school campus would generate \$7.1 billion in total economic activity. We congratulate the County and City Commissioners for quickly moving on this exciting project.



Lisa Nucci, Keiser University; Superintendent of the School District of Palm Beach County Michael Burke; and Kim Lea, Chamber Chair. CAPEHART

## Palm Beach County Schools Receive an A Rating

Michael Burke, superintendent of the School District of Palm Beach County, was all smiles as he heralded the good news of the school district attaining an A rating for the 2023-24 school year at the Chamber's Back to School Breakfast on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the West Palm Beach Marriott Hotel. This is Burke's fourth year as superintendent, and he credited the hardworking team of educators, administrators, students, parents and the community throughout the district that partnered to make Palm Beach County the best choice in education. In his stirring presentation, he shared many exciting innovative programs, such as Khanmigo (AI) and HUDL, innovative choice and career programs in arts, international baccalaureate, critical industry certifications, and immersive community experiences with community partners such as Mounts Botanical Garden, the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts and the Norton Museum.

At least six new high schools were completed during the period. The district is home to several state champions in soccer, bowling, weightlifting, track and field, and more, and is now the best community for music programs at the elementary and high school levels. Qualifications were enhanced throughout the various levels within the district and district, and with the Amplified Mathematics Program (AMP)

starting at the elementary level, Palm Beach County Schools have strengthened their ability to successfully meet employment and economic needs in the years to come. In closing, Burke encouraged attendees to support and respond favorably to the ballot question about the one-half-cent tax, which is a tremendous help for schools in the county.

During the event, attendees generously donated school supplies to The Education Foundation Red Apple Supply Drive and more than \$1,800 to the Belvedere Elementary School. The utility powerhouse, Florida Power and Light Co., generously matched the amount raised by the attendees at the event bringing the total to more than \$3,600.

The Chamber thanks the many attendees, sponsors and community partners who helped to make this event a rousing success.

Visit [www.palmbeaches.org](http://www.palmbeaches.org) for more information about events and sponsorships.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#### ENHANCED MEMBERSHIP

**Abell Pest Control**  
Kereth Powell  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
954-459-5283  
kpowell@abellgroup.com

**Acti-Kare Responsive In-Home Care**  
Micheal Vergara  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561-990-5830  
activeseniorcarefl@gmail.com

**Lisbet Assisted Living & Memory Care at Wellington Bay**  
Lynne McKague  
Wellington, FL 33414  
561-423-9056  
lmckague@libertyseniorliving.com

**LovingCare Providers LLC**  
Nathalia Gil  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
561-787-2240  
info@lovingcareproviders.com

**Signature Barber Academy**  
Tosh Juneau  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
561-788-5449  
signaturebarberacademy@gmail.com

**South East Spas**  
Zackary Pena  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
561-328-3379  
pena@southeastspas.com

**Storm Smart**  
Christine St. Laurent  
Lake Worth, FL 33461  
561-229-0048  
info@stormsmart.com

#### BASIC MEMBERSHIP

**365 Degree Total Marketing**  
Brian Schachter  
Serving Palm Beach County, FL 33401  
561-291-7094  
brian@365degreetotalmarketing.com

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties**  
Yvette Flores Acevedo  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406  
561-727-3450  
info@mentorbig.org

**Craft Good Business**  
Ruby Benoit  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
619-333-8606  
ruby@craftgoodbusiness.com

**Flex Legal**  
Jackie Brooks  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
561-602-7183  
jackie@flexlegalstaffing.com

**Gator Electric and Communications, Inc.**  
Alice Riley  
Lake Worth, FL 33461  
561-641-8100  
ariley@gatorelectric.us

**HiKimDavid LLC**  
Kim David  
Loxahatchee, FL 33470  
718-913-0548  
hikimdavid@gmail.com

**Maman**  
Andrea Szot  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561-660-7716  
marketing@mamannyc.com

**Milner, Inc.**  
Chandler Felger  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442  
561-859-6597  
cfeleger@milner.com

**Paybotx**  
Miguel Arias  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
305-896-5963  
ariasmerchanceforce@gmail.com

**Rare Blue Moon Marketing**  
Alexis Tambe  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
585-490-3699  
alexis@rarebluemoon.io

**United Community Bank**  
Edward Bishop  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
561-846-1489  
ed\_bishop@ucbi.com

#### JOIN THE CHAMBER

Membership in the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches provides opportunities for members of the business community to improve their visibility and build and maintain relationships. Email membership development manager Kirby Davis at [kdavis@palmbeaches.org](mailto:kdavis@palmbeaches.org) or call 561-833-3894 today.





## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS' DREW BARTLETT ADDRESSES CHAMBER TRUSTEES!

## Congratulations Grads!



The 27 participants of the 2024 Class of Leadership West Palm Beach received their certificates on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the Chamber's Back to School Breakfast at the West Palm Beach Marriott. The members of the 2024 Class are as follows: Nerlande Adolphe, City of West Palm Beach; Bradly Bock, KAST Construction; Alexander Brams, Jones Foster P.A.; Brandon Cabrera, The BrandX Company; Christopher Claeysen, Schmidt Nichols; David Eiler, Locality Bank; Samhurline Etienne, West Palm Beach Fire Department; Aubrey Fleming, Trustbridge Hospice Foundation; Tarelle Goldwire, City of West Palm Beach; Nitesh Goli, Radise International, LC; Olga Hernandez, City of West Palm Beach; Kristina Holt, Cox Science Center and Aquarium; Mary Jacobs, Kravis Center for



the Performing Arts; Zachary Jacobson, Gunster; Byron Jefferson, Palm Beach Post/LocalIQ; Damba Koroma, The Lord's Place; Stacey Liebla, Florida Power & Light; Megan Luchey, A & Associates, Inc.; Maria Morales, Saint Mary's Medical Center; Thomas Moran, West Palm Beach Fire Department; Jessica Navarro, City of West Palm Beach; Nathan Polselli, City of West Palm Beach; Kelly Schulz, Mapei Corporation; Tish Sheesley; Jordan Thomas, WGI, Inc.; Marcia Weber, United Way of Palm Beach County; Imani Williams, Lesser,

Lesser, Landy & Smith, PLLC. Congratulations to all of the Graduates! And, a special appreciation for this year's class sponsor, KAST Construction!

Applications for the 2025 Leadership West Palm Beach session will be available online at [www.palmbeaches.org](http://www.palmbeaches.org) by Friday, Sept. 6. For more information on Leadership West Palm Beach, contact Teri Page at [tpage@palmbeaches.org](mailto:tpage@palmbeaches.org).



## Pruitt & Pruitt Celebrates 70 Years of Chamber Membership



Pruitt & Pruitt, P.A. practices in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death, wills, trust and estates, civil litigation, and transactional law in West Palm Beach. The firm's roots trace to law offices started by family members Robert L. Earnest and William J. Pruitt in 1924 and 1929, respectively. Since that time, there have been several more familial lawyers, one of which was C. Harold Earnest, who served as mayor of West Palm Beach in 1966.

The firm now consists of father and son attorneys William E. Pruitt, who practiced with his father William H. Pruitt for 37 years, and his son W. Braedyn Pruitt, a fourth-generation Florida lawyer.

Throughout the years the attorneys have donated many hours of service to various city, county and nonprofit boards. Both William H. Pruitt and William E. Pruitt served as Chairs of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches.

### RIBBON CUTTINGS



**Floor & Decor**  
July 25, 2024  
6750 Okeechobee Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
404-471-1634



**Maman**  
August 12, 2024  
473 South Rosemary Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
561-660-7716



**PE CPA Firm**  
August 16, 2024  
636 US Highway 1, Suite 118  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
561-881-1488



## Chamber of Commerce of The Palm Beaches Welcomes Incoming Board Chairman



Please join The Chamber of Commerce Of The Palm Beaches in welcoming incoming board chairman Micheal Davis, senior VP, chief strategy officer, WGI Inc.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### Platinum Sponsor – \$5,000

Platinum sponsors receive four tickets to the event, recognition at the dinner and their company name and logo in an article appearing in The Palm Beach Post. (Unlimited opportunities available.)

#### Gold Sponsors – \$2,500

Gold Sponsors receive two tickets to the event, recognition at the dinner and their company name and logo in an article appearing in The Palm Beach Post. (Unlimited opportunities available.)

#### Silver Sponsors – \$1,250

Silver Sponsors receive one ticket to the event and a listing in The Palm Beach Post. (Unlimited opportunities available.)

For more information contact Roxine Green at [rgreen@palmbeaches.org](mailto:rgreen@palmbeaches.org).

### Annual Chairman's Circle Dinner

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 2, 6:30-9 p.m.  
**Where:** Phillips Point, 777 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
**Tickets:** Individual tickets, \$350

### TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

#### Caleb Bennett



Caleb Bennett is a real estate analytics and development expert for HuiZenga Holdings, Inc., a diversified company that manages the family-owned HuiZenga's private businesses and real estate entities. He began his career with the HuiZenga Family in 2015 at the Rybovich Boat Company, one of the many enterprises within the family portfolio. In 2020, Bennett transitioned into another aspect of the company to focus on the family's real estate holdings. He has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Arts in religion from Liberty University and is diligently working toward his Juris Doctor.

#### Sean Ouellette



Sean Ouellette grew up in Jupiter where he started his career in construction following his attendance to the University of Florida M.E. Rinker School of Building Construction. He has held management and executive roles in both project management and field operations, where he has supported and led teams to successfully complete projects large and small in multiple market sectors. In 2016, Ouellette joined KAST Construction Company as Director of Operations opening company's Tampa Division. In 2023, Sean relocated back to KAST Construction Headquarters in West Palm Beach leading the corporate office as Chief Operating Officer. Sean is responsible for the leadership and execution of KAST Construction's business operations, planning and performance.

#### Jervonte 'Tae' Edmonds



Jervonte "Tae" Edmonds is the Founder and CEO of the 2020 Nonprofit of the Year Suits For Seniors and the CEO of the West Palm Beach Police Athletic League. Edmonds prides himself on being a public speaker, entrepreneur, educator, author, and a philanthropist. He is the author of To the Moon and Back and Adventures of the Rich and Famous. Edmonds has worked for Keller Williams as a real estate agent, the Florida Senate, the Florida House of Representatives and as safety and justice challenge analyst for Palm Beach County Commissioners Criminal Justice Commission.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday SEPT. 10**  
**Get to Know: President and CEO James Gavrilos of the Education Foundation**  
**When:** 9-10 a.m. **Where:** Red Apple Supplies, 7071 Garden Road, Riviera Beach, FL 33404 **Cost:** Free to members and YPOP members only **Contact:** Jessica Straghn at [jstraghn@palmbeaches.org](mailto:jstraghn@palmbeaches.org)

**Wednesday SEPT. 11**  
**Coffee & Chat with Past Athena Young Professional Recipients**  
**When:** 9-10 a.m. **Where:** Chamber Boardroom, 401 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401 **Cost:** Free to Chamber members and YPOP members only **Contact:** Roxine Green at [rgreen@palmbeaches.org](mailto:rgreen@palmbeaches.org)

**Thursday SEPT. 12**  
**Business Builder**  
**When:** 9-10 a.m. **Where:** Chamber Boardroom, 401 N. Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33401 **Cost:** Free to members and nonmembers **Contact:** Kirby Davis at [kdavis@palmbeaches.org](mailto:kdavis@palmbeaches.org)

**Wednesday SEPT. 18**  
**33rd Annual ATHENA Leadership Awards Luncheon 2024**  
**When:** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Where:** Kravis Center for the Performing Arts – Cohen Pavilion, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33401 **Contact:** Roxine Green at [rgreen@palmbeaches.org](mailto:rgreen@palmbeaches.org)