



136 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32302-3309
Phone: (850) 521-1212
Fax: (850) 521-1239

www.FLFoundation.org
www.TheFloridaScorecard.com

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Contact: Dale Brill, dbrill@FLFoundation.org
(850) 521-1258

Carrie Blanchard Joins Florida Chamber Foundation to Lead Research Efforts

TALLAHASSEE--The Florida Chamber Foundation announced today that it has expanded its research and public policy development efforts with the addition of Carrie Blanchard as director of research and public policy. Blanchard is leaving the office of Mayor John Marks to join the think tank arm of the Florida Chamber of Commerce following her last city commission meeting this week.

"Dr. Blanchard adds significant depth to our team," said Dale Brill, Florida Chamber Foundation president. "We welcome her passion for data-driven analysis and insight into the unique needs of the state's metropolitan areas."

Blanchard's tenure with the mayor's office began in July 2005. In August 2008, she assumed the role of chief of staff and director of intergovernmental affairs, working with the Tallahassee City Commission and city management to develop and execute the annual state and federal legislative priorities, including both policy and appropriations.

In her new role, Blanchard will direct the Florida Chamber Foundation's research programs, including analysis based on the Florida Scorecard, the Foundation's turnkey source for benchmarking the state's evolving economy.

Blanchard earned her doctorate in public administration from Florida State University and holds master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Miami.

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The Florida Chamber Foundation is a business-led, problem-solver and research organization, working in partnership with state business leaders to promote a vibrant Florida economy. The Foundation's "Six Pillars" serve as a visioning platform for moving Florida forward. The Foundation's work focuses on: 1) Talent and education, 2) Innovation and economic development, 3) Infrastructure and growth leadership, 4) Business climate and competitiveness, 5) Civic and government systems, and 6) Quality of life. Founded in 1968, the Foundation is a critical voice for improved public education and a pro-Florida business climate. For more information, visit www.FLFoundation.org.