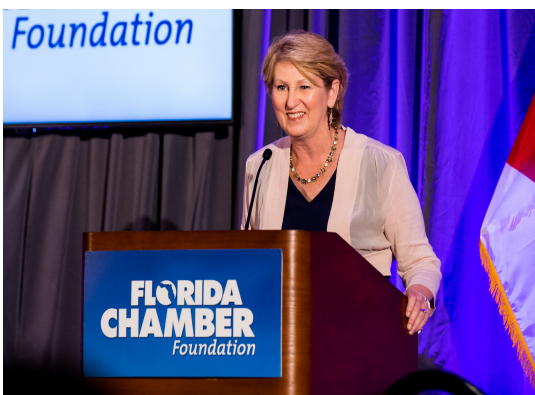


CLOSING FLORIDA'S TALENT GAP BY IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Attracting and Retaining High-Skill Talent



Florida Education Commissioner Pam Stewart discussing Florida's education system and the need for reform at the Florida Chamber Foundation's Annual Learners to Earners Education Summit.

"Free markets really benefit when we have free minds and people who are capable of educating students in a way that they can take ownership of their future".

JONATHAN HAGE
Charter Schools USA

Why It Matters to Florida

From local businesses to major corporations, a qualified workforce is a top concern for job creators. To secure Florida's future, employers need talent that is prepared to enter the workforce. Florida wins when we close the gap by putting students ahead of special interests. The Florida Chamber will continue to champion the best education system for our state.

The Florida Chamber's focus includes:

- ▶ Ensuring All Students Are Prepared for 4th Grade
- ▶ Further Improving Florida's K-12 System
- ▶ Championing School Choice Options
- ▶ STEM Matters More Than Ever
- ▶ Expanding Access to Higher Education and Attainment
- ▶ Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing Our Skill

Florida's Competitiveness Agenda

▶ Ensuring All Students Are Prepared for 4th Grade

Ensuring a talented workforce for tomorrow begins with empowering our youngest learners today. Preparing children to learn provides a foundation for future successes and helps them develop skills such as self-discipline, persistence and cooperation-skills that re essential to their future success in the workforce.

▶ Stem Matters More Than Ever

Recent available data shows that of the 265,200 job openings currently available in Florida, more than 68,000 are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related. The Florida Chamber will continue to support a focus on STEM initiatives to ensure our students become globally competitive.

▶ Expanding Access to Higher Education and Attainment

Florida sits as number two in the nation for public college affordability. In order to attract world-class talent, Florida must adequately prepare Florida' students to enter the workforce by increasing attainment and making college more affordable.

▶ Preparing Florida's Workforce and Addressing Our Skills Gap

In order for Florida to remain one of the top business climates in the nation, we must increase educational opportunities in both higher education and in the 21st century vocational trades. The Florida Chamber will continue to fight for a strong emphasis on quality workforce education programs that link education to job creation.

The Fight for Free Enterprise Continues

ACT NOW:

We believe that a quality education and workforce development system is the best way to enable Floridians to compete in a 21st century global economy. Be a part of the Florida Chamber Foundation's Business Alliance for Early Learning and help us invest in the future of Florida's students.



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GET INVOLVED:

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