

Speaker Lineup Set for NaplesNEXT State of the Community Summit

Local, state and national leaders evaluate the landscape of childhood welfare in Collier County and beyond as part of 2020 NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival

NAPLES, Fla (Dec. 17, 2019) – Influential national and community leaders, including elected officials, philanthropists, doctors and law enforcement personnel, will be among the featured speakers at the NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival *State of the Community Summit*. The program, hosted in partnership with the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, takes place the morning of March 3, 2020, at the Naples Grande Beach Resort.

Serving as the second day of programming for the two-day NaplesNEXT Ideas Festival, the *State of the Community Summit* will focus on three important topics of children’s services in Collier County: Child Advocacy, Early Learning and Education, and Pediatric Healthcare. Since its inception in 2000, NCEF has impacted more than 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing 275,000 children in Collier County with the services and resources they need to excel.

“As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, NCEF is delighted to have this opportunity to share our experiences and those from many of our partners in these three children’s service areas and their impact on the educational, emotional and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County,” said NCEF CEO Maria Jimenez-Lara. “This fantastic speaker lineup will reinforce the importance of what we do as an organization every day. Their collective experience in these important areas will provide valuable takeaways for members of our community.”

“We are excited to welcome thought leaders from prestigious national and regional organizations to share their viewpoints on the current landscape of child wellbeing,” said Stacey Vollman Warwick, executive director of NaplesNEXT. “It’s important that we discuss the current challenges our children face today, shine a light on the changes that have positively influenced our children, and share how our actions today can position our children for future success.”

Information on each session and guest speakers can be found below:

Child Advocacy

Speakers: Christine Greider, Retired 20th Judicial Circuit Judge – Unified Family Court; Richard LeBer, President and CEO, Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida; Sherriff Kevin Rambosk, Collier County Sheriff’s Office

Moderator: TBD

About the session: Speaking for and protecting our community’s most vulnerable children has always been important, not only to Collier County, but communities across the country. Foster care, the dependency system and childhood hunger are important elements that impact our youth today and must be considered as part of childhood development.

Early Learning and Education

Speakers: Susan Block, Chief Executive Officer, Early Learning Coalition of SWFL; Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent, Collier County Public School System; Dr. Phil Poekert, Director, Lastinger Center for Learning, University of Florida

Moderator: Elisa Villanueva Beard, CEO, Teach for America

About the session: High-quality educational programming provides children with the tools for academic and social success. It is incumbent on our leaders to guide our youth through the education process, from early learning to high school graduation and preparing students to be ready for the future.

Pediatric Healthcare

Speakers: Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Chairman of the Ophthalmology and Director, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute; Scott Burgess, President/CEO, David Lawrence Center; Armando Llechu, Chief Administrative Officer, Golisano Children's Hospital

Moderator: Dr. Thomas Shanley, President and CEO, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Former Chairman of Department of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

About the session: Essential medical and healthcare services are vital for children to grow and thrive. The many facets of pediatric healthcare, ranging from primary care to specialties including mental health and ophthalmology, will be discussed among leading professionals.

The *State of the Community Summit* adds to the *Big Thinking. Big Fun* that made the inaugural NaplesNEXT a blockbuster event. Over the course of two days, NaplesNEXT will once again blend content sessions highlighting an assembly of trendsetters and cultural icons discussing "What's NEXT?" across a diverse set of topics with a festive atmosphere that encourages networking and idea generation.

Registration for NaplesNEXT is now open at naplesnext.com. A portion of each registration fee is tax deductible and will benefit NCEF and other designated non-profit beneficiaries through a FoundationNEXT fund established through the Community Foundation of Collier County.

A preview of the 2020 programming is available at naplesnext.com. Stay connected as additional speakers are announced and the programming is finalized by following NaplesNEXT on Twitter [@NaplesNEXT](https://twitter.com/NaplesNEXT), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/naplesnext) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/naplesnext).

NaplesNEXT is produced by the Leadership division of Intersport, a 20-time Emmy Award-winning innovator and event producer.

ABOUT INTERSPORT

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As part of a sustained investment in Southwest Florida, the Sports Properties division of Intersport is producing the Rocket Mortgage by Quicken Loans Fort Myers Tip-Off early season college basketball

tournament, which will air on FS1 and is played in November each year at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers.

ABOUT THE NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is improving the educational, emotional, and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted more than 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing 275,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. NCEF's unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.

Find our latest updates on social media – NWWF and NCEF are on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @NCEF_NWWF.

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