



## FORMER GOVERNOR BOB MARTINEZ AS CO-CHAIR OF CHAMBER LEADERSHIP ST. PETE PROGRAM

**St. Petersburg, FL - June 29, 2009** - The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Former Governor Bob Martinez as co-chair of its expanding Leadership St. Pete program.

“Governor Bob Martinez is a distinguished leader and has served at the federal, state, and local levels of government. We are fortunate to have someone of his stature lend his expertise and experience to the Leadership St. Pete program,” said Steve Raymund, Chair of the Board of Governors, St Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Bob Martinez is Senior Policy Advisor with Holland & Knight's offices in Tampa and Tallahassee. Gov. Martinez is one of Florida's most respected leaders, and his distinguished career in public service spans more than 40 years. Career highlights include serving in the following positions: Cabinet-level office as the nation's second Drug Czar under President George H.W. Bush from 1991-1993, Governor of Florida from 1987-1991, Mayor of the City of Tampa from 1979-1986, and Vice Chairman of the Southwest Water Management District from 1975-1979.

Gov. Martinez is known for his creation of effective environmental protection programs, focus on drug control, and commitment to public education. He continues to be involved with non profit organizations that promote education, environment, business, and job creation.

“I look forward to being involved with the Leadership St. Pete program and the opportunity to work with The Chamber to help shape its next chapter,” said Governor Martinez.

He will be co-chairing Leadership St. Pete with State Representative Bill Heller. Dr. Heller was announced as a co-chair yesterday. Dr. Heller is a widely respected leader in the community

who became dean and CEO of USF-St. Pete in 1992 where he led the effort to make it a four year campus. When he stepped down as head of the campus in 2002, the City of St. Petersburg declared August 21 “Bill Heller Day” and honored him for a “Decade of Excellence.” He has been an active contributor to several leadership development programs including Leadership St. Pete.

Dr. Heller is a tenured professor in the College of Education, training a new generation of teachers for Florida’s classrooms. He was elected District 52’s State Representative in 2006 and has focused on several issues including education, property insurance and property taxes. He serves on a wide range of community boards.

“I care very much about the program and welcome the opportunity to build upon its past

accomplishments while expanding even more its role in preparing future leaders for our community,” said Dr. Heller.

“We are pleased to have such a dynamic team lead our Leadership St. Pete program through one of the most pivotal times in our region’s history,” said John T. Long, President & CEO of The Chamber.

A waiting list is now being formed for the Leadership Class of 2010. Interested participants should contact Christina Brown at [cbrown@stpete.com](mailto:cbrown@stpete.com). Applications will be due October 5, 2009.

Leadership St. Pete (LSP) is one of the oldest leadership programs in America and a division of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and its 501(c)(3) Foundation.

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