



North Carolina Educational Fact-Finding Trip March 14-15, 2012

Day One: March 14, 2012

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Arrive at Miami International Airport**

The North Carolina legislative delegation, North Carolina corporate leaders, and PEFNC staff arrive at Miami International Airport. Upon arrival, go to the baggage claim area. Please look for the PEFNC signage for transportation to the hotel.

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Travel to Hyatt Regency Coral Gables**

Travel time allotted for the entire North Carolina delegation to arrive and check into the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables (50 Alhambra Plaza, Coral Gables, FL 33134).

6:15 p.m.

Depart for Dinner at The Globe Cafe (377 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables, FL 33134)
North Carolina delegation gather in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables.

6:30 p.m.

Dinner at *The Globe Cafe*

Overview of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program

John Kirtley, Chairman, Step Up for Students (SUFS) and Erika Aaron, Director of Community Relations, Waste Management Incorporated

John Kirtley is a Tampa, FL, venture capitalist who in 1998 started his own foundation to fund private school scholarships for low-income children. In 2001, he persuaded the Florida Legislature to create a statewide tax credit scholarship to serve more students. John is now chairman of Step Up For Students, which provides tax credit scholarships to 39,000 low-income students and annually grants over \$218 million in scholarships. John will discuss the program's history, accountability and transparency measures, program effectiveness and other vital information. Florida corporate leaders will also discuss their experiences with the program.

Erika Aaron is the Director of Community Relations for Waste Management's Southern Group, located in Atlanta, GA. In this capacity, she oversees the public affairs planning process for major permitting projects, develops strategic regional partnerships, allocates charitable funding and directs community outreach and grassroots initiatives across twelve southern states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Erika will share why Waste Management Inc. supports the business education tax credit program in Florida, as well as Georgia and Arizona.

Day Two: March 15, 2012

7:00 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. **Breakfast/Check out**

Breakfast will be on your own. Please check out and bring your bags down with you.

8:00 a.m.

Meet in Hyatt Regency Coral Gables lobby

Transportation will be provided to Miami Union Academy (12600 NW Fourth Ave., North Miami, FL 33168).

8:50 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Miami Union Academy Tour and Panel Discussion**

Miami Union Academy is a participating private school in the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Miami Union Academy serves 295 students in grades Pre-K through 12. The principal of Miami Union Academy will talk about regulatory compliance, academic and financial accountability, and other aspects of the tax credit scholarship program. Students and parents who are currently participating in the program will discuss their experiences with the program. A bipartisan group of Florida legislators will discuss the politics of the program consisting of the following:

Rep. John Patrick Julien (D)

Rep. Michael Bileca (R)

Rep. Mack Bernard (D)

Rep. Ana Rivas Logan (R)

11:30 a.m.

Depart for the Biltmore Hotel (1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134)

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch with Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush (Biltmore Hotel)

Discussion with Former Governor Jeb Bush, Chairman, Foundation for Excellence in Education

Governor Bush served as the 43rd governor of Florida from 1999 through 2007. Governor Bush will discuss his experiences and the perspective he gained from starting the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Bush currently serves as Founder and Chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education, a national education policy organization located in Tallahassee, Florida.

1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Leave for Miami International Airport from the Biltmore Hotel

Transportation will be provided to the airport