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PRESS RELEASE

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Education Foundation Welcomes New Board Members for 2025 - 2026
3 new directors on board for elevating education in St. Lucie County

PORT ST LUCIE, FLORIDA: The Education Foundation of St. Lucie County

welcomed three new Board Members to the team this year including George Oestreich, Joe James, and Ignatius “Nate” Spera. The new members bring public and private sector experiences along with a common goal of advancing the Foundation’s mission and purpose.

Mr. Oestrich is a retired development officer for an international private club. His marketing, event planning, and fund-raising expertise along with his keen eye for details are welcome skills at the Foundation. Mr. James brings start-up, training, and technical experience to the Foundation’s Board of Directors having been a private sector employee with Monsanto. His current role as a realtor in Port St. Lucie makes him an invaluable networker for the Foundation. Mr. Spera was the fire chief in St. Lucie County for many years during his 32 year tenure with the Fire District. He is looking forward to collaborating with the public sector to increase the Foundation’s visibility and further its mission.

“We are very proud of the strong Board of Directors we currently have here at the Education Foundation. These three new members are helping us to diversify while providing a vast array of skills to our current Board. We are happy to welcome them.” stated Thom Jones, Foundation President in a recent interview.

The St. Lucie County Education Foundation, Inc. is the direct support organization for the St. Lucie County Public School District. Founded in 1990, the Foundation’s mission is to connect the community to classrooms, innovate learning, power potential and celebrate the successes along the way. The Education Foundation is a 501(c)3

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non-profit organization that relies on corporate and individual benefactors and grants to raise funds to meet their goals. For more information, please visit www.efslc.org. To learn more about our Board of Directors, please visit www.efslc.org/aboutus.

END RELEASE

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Photo by Jackie Wolfe

Photo 1: Thom Jones, president of the Education Foundation of St. Lucie County and Board treasurer James Abbott welcome new Board members George Oestrich and Joe James at a recent board meeting. Not pictured Nate Spera.