

# ABOUT THE ALACHUA COUNTY EDUCATION COMPACT

**Vision & Mission:** In an effort to advance our region as the global hub of talent, innovation and opportunity, the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce and a host of leaders in business, education, government, philanthropy and the community at-large launched the Alachua County Education Compact on May 18, 2015. The Compact serves as an engine to mobilize the community around education, support the preparation of tomorrow's workforce by implementing a cradle-to-career continuum, provide consistent education opportunities to all students and invest today in tomorrow's economic prosperity. Through this compact, the Chamber and its partners will be able to *facilitate economic prosperity, business growth and community progress.*

**Background:** In 2013, the Gainesville Chamber started a conversation about what role the business community should play in shaping education in Alachua County. That conversation led to an examination of successful models executed in regions across the country to transform education systems. In April 2014, the Gainesville Area Chamber and Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce met to discuss the implementation of the LA Compact.

Simultaneously, Greater Gainesville stakeholders also were engaged in a conversation about the direction and coordination of the region's talent pipeline. From the region's collective dialogue emerged the idea of an Education Compact to guide, augment and coordinate existing efforts to unite academia and business around an agreed upon set of community-wide education outcomes.

Vice President of Education & Talent Alignment Ian Fletcher completed a fellowship with the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives in Education Attainment and is overseeing the development of the Alachua County Education Compact.

**Overview:** The Chamber is working with the Alachua County Public Schools to transform our education system by:

- Convening cross-sector stakeholders
- Leveraging limited resources
- Pursuing collaborative strategies

**Objective:** The Gainesville Chamber recruited business and community leaders to sign the Alachua County Education Compact in support of transforming and advancing of our education system. Centralizing the business community around education and implementing early solutions ensures both the development of a talent pipeline for tomorrow's workforce and an investment in the future of this community.