

**RICHARD M. CORCORAN, ESQ.**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**EDUCATION**

**REGENT SCHOOL OF LAW**, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Juris Doctor, 1996

**ST. LEO UNIVERSITY**, Saint Leo, Florida, Bachelor of Arts, International Studies, 1989

**SKILLS**

- Executive Management • Education Expertise • Organizational Leadership
- Strategic Planning & Communications • Facilities Management • Resource Development & Fundraising • Government Management • Budget Management • Staff Development & Training • Negotiation & Consensus Building • Advocacy •

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Commissioner of Education**, 2018 to Present

- Chief state school and educational officer, and administrative head of the Florida Department of Education
- Assists the State Board of Education in implementing compliance with the mission and goals of the K-20 education outside the authority of the State University System
- Coordinates and presents to the State Board of Education annual budgets for public schools, community colleges, colleges and universities, and related education activities
- Manages an annual budget that is approximately \$25 billion
- Leads and oversees 15 divisions and offices, with over 2,200 employees
- Provides support to the Office of Early Learning, which serves more than 1 million children under the age of 5 at nearly 11,000 providers
- Supports over 2.8 million K-12 public school students, 318,000 full-time staff, 176,000 teachers, 4,000 traditional public and charter public schools, and 73 superintendents
- Coordinates with the Florida College System, comprising 28 public colleges, with over 46,000 employees, 733,000 students, and 73 campuses, offering over 200 four-year degree programs.
- Oversees Career and Technical Education, serving over 90,000 students and 48 intuitions supporting workforce education
- Appoints staff required to carry out duties and functions of the Florida Department of Education in a manner that meets legislative intent and promotes both efficiency and accountability

- Hires, develops, trains, and supervises a highly efficient senior management and leadership team
- Provides technical assistance to 73 school districts, and all traditional public and public charter schools, as well as private schools participating in any state scholarship programs
- Provides advice and counsel to the State Board of Education and the Florida College System Council of Presidents on all matters pertaining to education
- Collaborates with other public agencies to implement policies and programs required by law
- Develops guidelines and procedures necessary to be used by district school boards and all other local educational agencies to assure uniformity, accuracy, and efficiency in the keeping of records, the execution of contracts, the preparation of budgets, or the submission of reports
- Implements school improvement and education accountability designed to provide all students the opportunity to attend a high-quality school and attain improved educational outcomes
- Oversees the Florida Instructional Materials Adoption process for K-12
- Prepares, publishes, and disseminates user-friendly materials relating to the state's education system, including the state's K-12 scholarship programs and the Voluntary Prekindergarten program
- Appoints or serves on over 60 boards impacting education throughout Florida.
- Serves on the Florida Board of Governors, as the governing body for the State University System of Florida

### **Key Accomplishments**

- Unanimously confirmed by the State Board of Education
- Upon taking office, implemented changes to remove a teacher certification backlog at the Florida Department of Education. Approximately 31,000 applications, of which a majority had been in languishing longer than the statutory limit of 90 days
- Issued recommendations to reopen Florida's schools and a plan for the CARES Act, designed to work together to ensure every student in Florida continued to receive a world-class education
- Provided detailed guidance on reopening schools and providing continuous educational options to families through issuing Emergency Orders – 2020-EO-06: Further Guidance for Closing Achievement Gaps and Creating Safe Spaces for Learning and 2020-EO-07 - Spring 2021 Improvements
- Reviewed and worked with superintendents and district leadership on approving reopening plans for fall and spring for 73 school districts during the 2020-21 school year
- Implemented comprehensive, statewide collaborative, and multi-year process to adopt Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for math and English Language Arts, which had been based on Common Core
- Secured a multi-year, \$5 million grant to create the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative to elevate civic literacy, promote the expansion of debate and speech

programs to all of Florida's public school districts, and professional development for high-quality teachers

- Identified \$15.8 million in federal funding to be redirected to support Title I schools with a grade of D or F to help financially incentivize and recruit nearly 1,100 'highly effective' and 'effective' teachers for the students in these struggling schools
- Implemented dozens of school safety recommendations recommended by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission, including strengthening compliance and expanding school districts' access to the Guardian Program, ensuring the safety and security of every school
- In three years, secured over \$295 million in mental health funding for districts and schools to establish care for students and \$16.5 million to continue evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training for school personnel to identify and understand mental health and substance abuse problems
- Expanded opportunities for career and technical education to chart the course for Florida to be #1 in the nation in workforce education by 2030 and worked with industry experts to develop 'Florida's Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act' (Perkins V)
- Advocated for and secured, the highest ever per-pupil spending totals at \$7,793 per student for 2020-21 and the most significant increase to the Base Student Allocation in 2019-20 since 2015-16
- Championed and secured \$500 million to address the chronic below-average compensation of Florida's teachers, raising the minimum teacher salary and resources to increase veteran teachers and other instructional personnel, boosting Florida from the bottom five to the top 5 in the nation for starting teacher pay
- Stabilized Florida Virtual School (F.L.V.S.) by appointing a new C.E.O., ushering in a leaner and more skilled leadership team, saving \$660,000 by cutting bloated salaries and contract lobbyists, using those savings to provide pay increases for F.L.V.S.' teachers, right-sizing the reserve balance
- Demanded and ultimately helped guide a necessary leadership change at The Able Trust, the direct-support organization for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation providing additional resources to provide services

## **FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Speaker, 2016 to 2018**

- Elected unanimously by fellow Representatives
- Performed all duties as Speaker, which is a constitutional officer who leads the House for a two-year term
- Oversaw, managed, and was ultimately responsible for the overall operations of the House
- Responsible for over \$80,000,000 in total budgets, and approximately 500 employees and 120 elected Representatives
- Presided over House sessions
- Appointed all members, vice-chairs, and chairs to House Committees and Joint Committees

### **Speaker-Designate, 2014 to 2016**

- Chair of Appropriations Committee
- Alternating Chair of Joint Legislative Budget Commission
- Vice-Chair of Budget Conference - At Large
- Member of the Rules and Calendar Committee
- Strategically planned with other members timeline for execution during speakership

### **State Representative, 2010 to 2018**

- Chair of Select Committee on Redistricting (2014)
- Chair of Health and Human Services Committee (2013-2014)
- Chair of House Select Committee on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2013-2014)
- Vice-Chair of Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee (2012)
- Member of Appropriations Committee (2012-2014)
- Member of Rules and Calendar Committee (2012-2014)
- Member of Health and Human Services Committee (2012)
- Member of K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee (2011-2012)
- Member of House Redistricting Subcommittee (2011-2012)
- Member of Health and Human Services Committee (2011-2012)
- Member of Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee (2011)
- Member of Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee (2011)
- Member of Select Committee on Government Reorganization (2011)
- Co-wrote Blueprint Florida, a guide to cleaning up government, leading selflessly, and focusing on the people's interest

### **Key Accomplishments**

#### **Higher Education Legislation**

- Higher Education Excellence Act - Increased access and affordability, supporting meaningful research, and raising the national prominence of the State University System (2018)
- Performance funding in higher education (2018)
- Expansion of Bright Futures (2018)
- Development of Need-Based Aid for College Students (2018)
- Substantially Enhanced the Funding of State-Based Universities Medical, Law, and Business Graduate Schools (2018)

#### **K-12 Education**

- Largest teacher Pay Increase in Florida's history (2019)
- Hope Scholarship for Bullied Students (2018)
- Schools of Hope (2017)

## **Ethics Reform**

- Spearheaded the most aggressive sexual harassment state reforms in history (2018)
- Strictest lobbying ban in the country on former legislators (2017)
- Required lobbyists to file notices of appearances on issues (2017)
- Lobbyists prohibited from contacting legislators electronically during a public meeting (2017)
- Florida House of Representatives members banned from traveling on private jets owned by lobbyists, enter into business deals or financial relationships with lobbyists (2017)
- Private contracts must be disclosed and noticed in advance if lobbyists are representing public entities or any institution receiving taxpayer funding (2017)

## **Fiscal Transparency and Accountability**

- Fought for the most far-reaching budget transparency rules in state history (2018)
- Health care savings for employees and state, providing more options for employees (2018)
- Fought for and achieved price transparency (2017)
- Led reforms of Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida (2017)
- Guided reform of Port Tampa Bay Executives' expenses (2017)
- Led reforms for public-private partnerships to address abuse (2017)
- Stopped expansion of stadium subsidies (2014)

## **Justice**

- Increased transparency in the criminal justice system (2018)
- According to an article in *Wired Magazine*, "Recently some local governments, including California's, have taken steps to make county-level criminal justice data public, but experts say no state has gone as far as the Florida bill. It's the first state to require this level of transparency at the case-by-case level, unlocking a wealth of nuanced information that could help lawmakers more easily detect the kind of problematic patterns and biases that plague courts and law enforcement agencies across the county." (2018)
- Lead the official apology by the Florida House for abuses at the Dozier School for Boys and the creation of two memorials for victims (2017)
- Advocated for led effort for a formal acknowledgment of wrongdoing and an apology by the Florida House to survivors of Groveland Four, encouraged formal pardon by Florida's Clemency Board (2017)

## **BROAD & CASSEL**

### **Of Counsel, 2011 to 2018**

- Non-partner member of the law firm
- Advised clients and represented their legal rights
- Performed other legal duties for clients as necessary
- Engaged in other activities relating to firm development and client development

## **CORCORAN LAW FIRM, P.A.**

### **Partner-Owner, 2007 to 2011**

- Provided representation in civil cases.
- Prepared documents and pleadings
- Appeared in court to advocate on behalf of clients
- Advocate on behalf of clients in court proceedings
- Served as lead counsel in jury trials

## **FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Chief of Staff/Special Counsel for Florida House of Representatives Speaker Marco Rubio, 2006 to 2007**

- Chief Administrative and Operating Officer for the Florida House of Representatives
- Functioned as the chief administrator of a high-profile public organization with approximately 500 employees, maintaining accountability to 120 Florida Representatives and the citizens of Florida
- Cultivated productive relationships with members, administrators, and staff members in both houses of the Florida Legislature
- Maintained up-to-the-minute knowledge of key issues, changing political climates, and evolving priorities to build cooperation and effectively manage affairs in a sensitive, fast-paced setting
- Setup and maintained open lines of communications with the Senior Staff in the Florida Senate
- Provided all legal counsel and guidance to the House Speaker and other House members as required
- Reviewed and finalized all legal opinions on behalf of the Florida House of Representatives
- Formulated and recommended policies and procedures; conducted assignments of a specialized or technical nature; and represented the Speaker and Chairs of other legislative units at various conferences and meetings as delegated
- Reorganized and Streamlined the House Committee structure and retrained, hired, and re-tasked professional staff
- Directed the implementation of all administrative, fiscal, personnel, and public relations activities for the Florida House
- Oversaw all affairs of the Florida House; the Office of the House Speaker, the Office of the House Clerk, the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms
- Served as the liaison between the Speaker and the House membership with the shared oversight of Joint Legislative Committees/Offices
- Directed and supervised the daily administrative, fiscal, personnel, and public relations activities for the House or other legislative units; made recommendations to the House Speaker regarding such activities
- Provided advice and policy guidance to the House Speaker; reviewed and recommended revision of existing policies and adoption of new policies, ensuring

that such policies and directives of the House or other legislative unit were implemented

- Advised the House Speaker on certain technical areas and provided specialized professional and administrative services; provided liaison with legislative committees
- Reviewed correspondence and formulated replies within areas of assigned responsibility
- Responded to requests from members and staff of the Legislature, other state and federal agencies, professional organizations, the media, and the general public
- Coordinated with Senate, and other legislative joint unit counterparts on issues affecting all elements of the Legislature
- Provided for the dissemination of pertinent information to Legislators, staff directors, and unit directors where applicable
- Planned workflows, deadlines, and work objectives with staff
- Directed the work of employees to ensure maximum use of time and resources
- Facility manager ultimately responsible for managing, maintaining, and care of all House facilities and jointly accountable for House-Senate jointly controlled facilities, including those in the state capitol building

## **REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA**

### **Chief of Staff/Special Counsel for House Campaigns, 2004 to 2006**

- Responsible for fundraising to support House Republican Campaign efforts - approximately \$18,000,000
- Strategic campaign planning and allocation of resources
- Training and supervision of field staff
- Agenda development

## **CORCORAN & CORCORAN, P.A.**

### **Partner, 1999 to 2004**

- Advised clients and represented their legal rights
- Provided representation in criminal and civil trials
- Prepared documents and pleadings
- Appeared in court to advocate on behalf of clients
- Performed other legal duties for clients as necessary

## **AFFILIATIONS**

**Florida Board of Governors, Member, 2019 to Present**

**Council of Chief State School Officers, Member, 2019 to Present**

**Florida Council of 100, Member, 2018 to Present**

**Florida Bar, Member *In Good Standing*, 1999 to Present**

## MILITARY EXPERIENCE

**U.S. Naval Reserves, Rank E-4, 1987 to 1993**

- Expert Rifleman Award
- National Defense Medal
- U. S. Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal

## PERSONAL

Commissioner Richard Corcoran was born in 1965 and moved to Florida as a child in 1976. Both of his parents grew up during the Great Depression and fought in World War II. They instilled a great sense of pride in public service and duty in him at an early age. From them, Commissioner Corcoran developed the principles by which he and his wife of over 27 years, Anne, who is also an attorney, teach their six children today.

Commissioner Corcoran grew up in Pasco County, Florida, where he graduated from Hudson High School. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. Leo College in 1989 and a Juris Doctorate from Regent University in 1996. While enrolled in college, Richard also served in the U.S. Naval Reserves, a Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class.

Commissioner Corcoran has been a practicing attorney in Florida for 22 years. He also served as the Speaker of the Florida House from 2016-2018. During his tenure in the state House, he pushed through over \$10 billion in tax cuts, eliminating over 5,000 regulations and passing the most robust ethics and transparency laws in state history.

Commissioner Corcoran is a passionate advocate for improving the education system in Florida. He fully believes every child can learn and that all children deserve the opportunity to receive a world-class education.

## STRATEGIC PLANS & PUBLICATIONS

**Wrote with the Florida Department of Education a Five-Year Strategic Plan to transform education in Florida.**

[Strategic Plan \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org/strategic-plan)

**Plan for Reopening Florida's Schools and CARES Act (2020) – [Reopening Florida's Schools and CARES Act \(fldoe.org\)](https://fldoe.org/reopening-florida-schools)**



**Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) (2020)**

- B.E.S.T. ELA Standards – [ELA B.E.S.T. STANDARDS \(fldoe.org\)](http://fldoe.org)
- B.E.S.T. [Math Standards](http://cpalmsmedia.net) – [MATH B.E.S.T. STANDARDS PDF \(cpalmsmedia.net\)](http://cpalmsmedia.net)

**Blueprint Florida (2012) – [2012-Blue-Print-Florida PDF \(typepad.com\)](http://typepad.com)**

**100 Innovative Ideas for Florida’s Future (2006) – [100 Innovative Ideas for https://www.amazon.com/100-Innovative-Ideas-Floridas-Future/dp/1596985119](https://www.amazon.com/100-Innovative-Ideas-Floridas-Future/dp/1596985119)**  
**Florida’s Future: Rubio, Marco (Amazon.com)**

**SIGNIFICANT LEGAL VICTORIES**

**Prevailed (2020)**

***Richard Corcoran, in his official capacity as Speaker of the Florida House, v. City of Tampa.*** Sued the City of Tampa for imposing an illegal tax mischaracterized as a “tourism marketing assessment.” A Hillsborough judge struck down the 2017 Tampa ordinance in February of 2020. Circuit Court Hillsborough County. [2a7c835d-cba0-4a5b-89d1-df9eb785172c.pdf \(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com)

**Prevailed (2017)**

***Richard Corcoran, in his official capacity as Speaker of the Florida House v. Florida Lottery.*** Sued the Florida Lottery for violating the separation of powers by entering into a multi-million-dollar contract without legislative approval. A judge, after a one-day bench trial, agreed with Speaker Corcoran and held that the lottery contract with the vendor was “void and unenforceable”. Circuit Court of Leon County. [Judge sides with House speaker in lawsuit in Florida Lottery contract dispute with Scott administration - News - The Florida Times-Union - Jacksonville, FL](http://news-the-florida-times-union-jacksonville-fl.com)

**Prevailed (2016)**

***Richard Corcoran, in his official capacity as Speaker of the Florida House, v. PDR Productions, Inc.,*** Sued Pitbull’s management company for failing to release a contract with the state entity VISIT Florida for advertising services. Pitbull released the contract within a few days of the lawsuit on his Twitter account, making the case moot. Pitbull agreed that the contract should not be kept a secret, and the VISIT Florida chief resigned for not being open and transparent. Leon County Circuit Court. [VISIT FLORIDA Chief to Resign Following Pitbull Deal | Condo Owner Magazine \(condo-owner.com\)](http://condo-owner.com)

**Prevailed (2017)**

Established a Committee to decide whether to bring impeachment proceedings against a judge who made racist and sexist remarks. Judge resigned. Jacksonville County Circuit Court. [Florida judge with sexist and racist views resigns \(Daily Mail Online\)](http://daily-mail-online.com)

**Prevailed (2017)**

Publicly suggested legal action against the Florida Supreme Court for allowing the Chief Justice to assign a retired justice to serve as an eighth justice on the court and to pay state funds to that retired an uncommissioned judge. Prepared but did not file quo warrant petition since the Florida Supreme Court changed their rules to prohibit the practice. [Court order on retired Supreme Court Justice Perry stops threatened lawsuit by Speaker Corcoran | Naked Politics \(typepad.com\)](#)

**Prevailed (2017)**

Threatened lawsuit demanding transparency from local tourism boards on expenses. Required data to review to ensure vendor contracts are transparent. Tourism boards complied once they were required to release information in audits. [Speaker Richard Corcoran demands data from 38 economic, tourist groups \(miamitodaynews.com\)](#)

**Prevailed (2017)**

Appointed two legislators to investigate legal fees in water wars. The law firm agreed to decrease its fees by almost \$4 million. [Corcoran appoints two legislators to investigate 'water wars' legal bills | Naked Politics \(typepad.com\)](#)

**Prevailed (2010)**

*Weber v. Mobil Oil Corp.* District Court of Custer County, Oklahoma. Represented plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against Exxon Mobil for fraud and contractual claims based upon the company improperly deducting operating expenses from royalty payments. Settled for \$30 million in 2010.

**Prevailed (2010)**

Represented plaintiffs in lawsuits over MTBE in city water. Clients included City of Crystal River and Tampa Bay Water. [NY, Fla. Towns Settle MTBE Suits With Shell, BP \(Law 360\)](#)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**Press Conference with Governor DeSantis on Education Proposal for "Civic Literacy Excellence" Initiative (2021)**

**Press Conference with Governor DeSantis Proposal for "Get There Faster" Initiative (2021)** [Florida Governor DeSantis makes education announcement \(wflx.com\)](#)

**Roundtable discussion on Facebook Live with Rep. Shevrin Jones on Education, (2021)**

**Press Conference with Governor DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis Announcing Resiliency Initiative for Florida Students (2021)** ['Changing the narrative on mental health': First lady Casey DeSantis announces initiative aimed to help students through tough times \(WFLA\)](#)

**Press Conference with Governor DeSantis Discussing COVID-19 and Education (2020)** Education commissioner: Florida students struggling in remote learning could be moved back to in-person | wtsp.com, LIVE: Florida Governor DeSantis holds COVID-19, education press conference (YouTube)

**Florida College System Council of Presidents Meeting Presentation (2020)**

**White House Roundtable Discussion About Reopening Schools (2020)** Appearing at White House, Richard Corcoran touts Florida's emergency order on reopening schools (wtsp.com)

**Education Roundtable with Governor DeSantis on Education (2020)** Governor DeSantis, education commissioner talk Hillsborough schools after state rejects online plan (wtsp.com)

**Roundtable with Governor DeSantis on Reopening Schools (2020)** DeSantis favors return of school sports in Florida (YouTube)

**Teacher of the Year Press Conference (2020)** Press Conference on the 2021 Teacher of the Year (The Florida Channel)

**A Message from Commissioner Corcoran on Covid-19 and CDC Guidelines (2020)** A Message from Commissioner Richard Corcoran regarding Covid-19 (YouTube)

**University of South Florida YMCA Civic Fellows Program Meeting Featured Speaker (2020)**

**Governor DeSantis Press Conference on Reopening Schools (2020)** Governor introduces plan to reopen Florida schools (clickorlando.com)

**Florida School Boards Association Featured Speaker (2020)**

**Association of Florida Colleges Trustee Commission Legislative Conference (2020)**

**Florida College System Council of Presidents' Meeting (2020)**

**Miami-Dade and Broward Teachers Unions' "State of Education Town Hall Meeting" Featured Speaker (2019)**

**Florida Standards Listening Tour to Replace Common Core (2019)**

**Florida Association of District School Superintendents (2019)**

**The Argus Foundation "Meet the Minds Luncheon" Featured Speaker (2019)**

**Panhandle Tiger Bay Club Featured Speaker (2019)**

**Press Conference with First Lady Casey DeSantis on Mental Health and Education** (2019)

**Florida Chamber of Commerce “Learners to Earners Workforce Summit”** (2019)  
Richard Corcoran: Education is freedom (floridapolitics.com)

**Press Conference and Educational Roundtable with Governor DeSantis Discussing Education Priorities** (2019)

**Florida Chamber of Commerce “Legislative Fly-In”** (2019)

**American Federation for Children National Policy Summit** (2018) AFC Summit Day 2 - clip - Corcoran Award presentation (YouTube)

**Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute Featured Speaker** (2018)

**Press Conference with Legislative Leaders on Open Data Legislation** (2018) Press Conference on Open Data Legislation (The Florida Channel)

**Opening Day of Session Address** (2018) House Speaker Richard Corcoran 2018 Opening Day Address (YouTube)

**Associated Industries of Florida Annual Conference Featured Speaker** (2017)

**Press Conference on Tax Reform with Governor Rick Scott** (2017) Press Availability with Governor Rick Scott and House Speaker Richard Corcoran (The Florida Channel)

**Tampa Con Café Lecture Series Presentation** (2017)

**Press Conference with Governor Rick Scott** (2017) Press Availability with Governor Rick Scott (The Florida Channel)

**“Fighting for Florida Victory Tour” with Governor Rick Scott and House Speaker Richard Corcoran** (2017)

**Panhandle Tiger Bay Club Featured Speaker** (2017)

**Opening Day Speech for Legislative Session** (2017)

**The Argus Foundation (Sarasota) Featured Speaker** (2017)

**Forum Club of the Palm Beaches Featured Speaker** (2017)

**Associated Press Legislative Planning Session Featured Speaker** (2017) Associated Press Legislative Planning Session with House Speaker Richard Corcoran (The Florida Channel)

**Opening Day of Session Speech (2016)**

**Sayfie Review's 2016 Leadership Forum (2016)**

**4th Annual Florida TaxWatch Principal Leadership Awards (2016)**

**National Federation of Independent Businesses Featured Speaker (2016)**

**Florida Chamber of Commerce Featured Speaker (2016)** Florida Chamber of Commerce Capitol Briefings - House Speaker Designate Rep. Corcoran (The Florida Channel)

**Speaker Designation Ceremony Remarks (2015)** Republican House Speaker Designation Ceremony for Representative Richard Corcoran (The Florida Channel)

**Florida Chamber of Commerce Featured Speaker (2014)** 2014 Session Preview - Representative Richard Corcoran (YouTube)

### **ACCOLADES AND HONORS**

**United Cerebral Palsy of Central Florida Champion for Children Award (2020)**

**State University System Legislative Champion Award by Florida Board of Governors (2018)**

**Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida President's Honor Roll (2018)**

**American Federation for Children Policymaker Award (2018)**

**Dr. Francis Bartlett Kinne Distinguished Service Award by Jacksonville University (2018)**

**Junior Achievement of South Florida's Man of the Year (2018)**

**Champion of Term Limits by U.S. Term Limits (2017)**

**Florida Health Care Association's Legislative Champion for the Elderly (2017)**

**Florida Sheriffs Association's Legislative Champion (2017)**

**Healthy Families of Florida Leadership Award (2016)**

**Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida All-Star (2014)**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of Florida, Legislator of the Year (2013-2014)**

**Politician of the Decade #2, *Florida Politics* (2020)** No. 2 on the list of Florida Politicians of the Decade: Richard Corcoran (floridapolitics.com)

**Winner of Session, *Florida Politics* (2018)** Column: Winners, losers in Florida's 2018 general election | Columnists (yoursun.com)

**Biggest Winner, *Florida Politics* (2017)** Winners and losers emerging from the 2017 Legislative Session (floridapolitics.com)

**Session 2017 Winner, *Tampa Bay Times* (2017)** The Buzz: Florida's political winners and losers of the year (tampabay.com)

**Session 2017 Winner, *Palm Beach Post* (2017)** Winners, losers during the 2017 legislative session - News - The Palm Beach Post - West Palm Beach, FL

**Session 2017 Winner, *Florida Politics* (2017)** Winners and losers emerging from the 2017 Legislative Session (floridapolitics.com)

**#1 Most Powerful Politician in Tampa Bay, *Florida Politics* (2017)** #1 on list of Tampa Bay's Most Powerful Politicians – Richard Corcoran – (SaintPetersBlog)

**Session 2016 Winner, *RSA Consulting* (2016)** Takeaways from Tallahassee: Winners & Losers of the 2016 Legislative Session – RSA Consulting (rsaconsultingllc.com)

### **NATIONAL NEWS APPEARANCES**

**CNN, *The Lead with Jake Tapper*, Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran discusses student in-person learning (2020)**

**NPR, *All Things Considered*, Reporter Ailsa Chang interview Florida Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran about the state's response to reopening schools (2020)**

**C-Span, Florida Governor DeSantis News Conference on Response to Coronavirus. Governor DeSantis, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran, and the Florida surgeon general delivered remarks (2020)**

**CNN, *Newsroom*, Reporter John Berman interviews House Speaker Richard Corcoran on Marjory Stoneman Douglas shootings (2018)**

**Fox News, *The Ingraham Angle*, Speaker Corcoran discusses the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shootings (2018)**

**Fox News, *Tucker Carlson Tonight*, House Speaker Richard Corcoran discusses the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas (2018)**

**C-Span, *Washington Journal***, Current House Speaker Richard Corcoran joined the show to discuss issues of importance to Florida's Legislature during C-Span's "50 Capitals Tour" series (2017)

**C-Span**, Florida Delegation Breakfast presentation (2016)

**C-Span, Road to the White House 2016, Sunshine State Summit**, Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran remarks (2015)

### STATEWIDE NEWS APPEARANCES

**The Florida Channel, *Florida Face to Face***, House Speaker Richard Corcoran Discusses Legislative Matters (2017)

**CBS Miami, *Facing South Florida with Jim DeFede***, House Speaker Richard Corcoran Discusses the Upcoming 2018 Legislative Session (2017)

**News4Jax, *This Week in Jacksonville***, House Speaker Richard Corcoran Speaks with Kent Justice and Rick Mullaney (2017) [Speaker Richard Corcoran on "This Week in Jacksonville"](#) (YouTube)

**WJCT News, *Policy Matters***, Host Rick Mullaney, Director of Jacksonville University's Public Policy Institute, Talks with House Speaker Richard Corcoran (2017)

**WTVT Fox 13, *Money, Power, and Politics***, House Speaker Richard Corcoran Discusses 2017 Session (2017) [Richard Corcoran on WTVT - July 9](#) (YouTube)

**BayNews 9, *Political Connections***, House Speaker Speaks with Host Al Ruechel About the 2017 Legislative Session (2017)

**The Florida Channel, *Face to Face***, Speaker Corcoran Discussed State Legislative Matters (2017) [Florida Face to Face - House Speaker Richard Corcoran](#) (The Florida Channel)

**WTVT Fox 13, *Money, Power, and Politics***, House Speaker Richard Corcoran Discusses the Upcoming 2017 Session (2017) [Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran Interview - YouTube](#)

### PROFILES

***One-on-One with Florida's Next Education Commissioner, WTSP*** (2018)  
[One-on-one with Florida's next education commissioner, Richard Corcoran](#) (wtsp.com)

***Heavy Hitter: Florida Speaker Richard Corcoran Wields Power, Florida Trend*** (2017)  
[Heavy Hitter: Florida Speaker Richard Corcoran wields power | Legislature 2017](#) (Florida Trend)

*Richard Corcoran New Speaker of the House, ABC Action News* (2016) [Richard Corcoran new Speaker of House \(YouTube\)](#)

*Corcoran Looks for 'Transformational' Time as Speaker, WUSF Public Media* (2016)  
[Corcoran Looks For 'Transformational' Time As Speaker \(WUSF Public Media\)](#)

*House Speaker Richard Corcoran Sits Down to Discuss Socioeconomics and Education, Tripp Scott's President Ed Pozzuoli* (2016) [Richard Corcoran, Speaker of the Florida House \(YouTube\)](#)

## TESTIMONIALS

*Florida #2 Politician of the Decade, Florida Politics* (2019)

"No House Speaker in modern history has wielded as much power before, during, and after their two-year term as Richard Corcoran ... Perhaps his best-known moment pre-Speakership came in the eleventh hour of the 2015 Legislative Session, when the then-House Budget Chief single-handedly scuttled the Senate's \$2 billion plan ... That famously fiery rant saw Corcoran declare war on the 'Gucci-loafing, shoe-wearing special interest powers that be.' And it was also in that moment that the rest of the state caught on to what those serving in the Legislature already knew: Corcoran was running the show."

*Tampa Bay Times* (2018)

"As Speaker, Corcoran's zeal for policy, cunning legislative tactics, and ability to cultivate loyalty in his party made him a powerhouse."

*Tampa Bay Times* (2017)

"Corcoran is the most unpredictable force in Florida politics in decades. He's a fearless political marksman who uses laws, rules, tweets, videos, lawsuits, and sheer nerve to lay waste to what he calls a 'culture of corruption' in Tallahassee."

*The Florida Squeeze Blog* (2018)

"It's difficult to not admire and respect Corcoran even in a begrudging manner. He's changed the game in Tallahassee with his force of will and courage in his convictions. He's made it clear how comfortable so-called conservatives have become with the same government that they detested before they were in power. He's put the fear of god into Tallahassee-based lobbyists. Progressives need a Corcoran of our own in Florida. Someone who understands how to obtain and exercise power yet has enough courage in her/his convictions to not let power force an unwise compromise. Simply put we need an elected official or strong candidate for high office willing to buck the establishment but unlike so many who have run before, actually knows how to work the system to garner power. Democrats and progressives can learn a lot from Richard Corcoran. We



don't like where he stands, but unlike so many in a corrupted process based upon cronyism at least he does take a stand."

**Watchdog.org** (2017)

"House Speaker Richard Corcoran began his two-year speakership in November by promising a 'transformational leap' in government accountability and transparency...Such pronouncements are often uttered by politicians...But one week into Florida's annual legislative session the hard-charging Republican reformer from Land O' Lakes has a lot to show for his audacious accountability talk."

**The Tallahassee Democrat** (2016)

"So, which one of these guys is the real pitbull? On the one side, we have the Miami rapper who performs under the *nom d'artiste* "Pitbull". He was hired by the state to promote tourism, but that's about all Visit Florida thinks you need to know about the arrangement. Terms of his contract — like how much he gets paid or what precisely, Mr. Bull does for it — are trade secrets. On the other side, we have Richard Corcoran, the newly unleashed Speaker of the House. He seems to think the public deserves to know how public agencies spend public money for public purposes...Judging by his two years as appropriations chairman and his first weeks as Speaker, comparing Corcoran to a pitbull might be unfair to the tenacious terrier."

**Orlando Sentinel Interview with Ben Wilcox** (2016)

"The ethics and lobby reform rules proposed by Corcoran...represent a significant step forward and will help reduce the influence of powerful lobbyists and bring more transparency to the state budget process. The new House rules are unprecedented in their scope and address issues that fuel public cynicism about politics and the influence of lobbyists on public policy. The rules are a strong statement by the new House speaker that he intends to, as he says 'change a political culture that is more beholden to special interest than to the people of Florida.' ... I know of no other state that has taken such a comprehensive approach to lobby reform."

**Senator Janet Cruz, Leadership Designation Ceremony for Speaker Corcoran** (2016)

"In my estimation, over 80% of the bills we pass are bipartisan measures that seek to resolve issues plaguing our state with common sense solutions and shared problems. And, while I know that we will have our fights as we should in a representative democracy, I truly do appreciate the efforts of my friend, Richard Corcoran. He includes us, the dissenting voices in this process."

**Lt. Governor Jeanette Nunez, Leadership Designation Ceremony** (2016)

"Speaker-designate Corcoran is bold, he's principled, and he's visionary. He's someone who's always looking ahead and always looking at ways to upend the proverbial system, in case you haven't noticed. Buckle your seatbelts because it's going to be an interesting ride, because he never drives in neutral. It's always forward and full steam ahead."

**Speaker Chris Sprowls, Leadership Designation Ceremony (2016)**

“Members, just a few short days ago this House released a series of proposed changes to our rules that will fundamentally change the culture of our Chamber, hold us all to a higher standard, and provide an unprecedented level of transparency for all Floridians to see. These rules were worked on collaboratively and in a bipartisan fashion, but at the visionary direction of one person, Richard Corcoran ... History is so replete with examples of political misdeeds that now when someone comes along who defies all of this... we remain in disbelief. But I can tell the men and women of this caucus what you already know. With Richard Corcoran, it’s real.”

**Ambassador Carlos Trujillo, Leadership Designation Ceremony (2016)**

“If you hear Richard’s story, you realize that it took a lot of hard work and sacrifice to get here. He ran for office a few times before ultimately winning. He has never been the front-runner and has always been the underdog, but through resolve and hard work he’s standing here... His litmus test for making decisions is convictions and principles ... Here are a few things that I know about Richard. I know that Richard will do what is right regardless of the consequences. I know that he listens to and inspires members and he develops long-lasting relationships with them. I know that he’s a visionary who empowers members.”

**RICHARD M. CORCORAN, ESQ.**

19009 Falcon Crest Blvd  
Land O Lakes, FL 34638-6155

May 7, 2021

Alberto Pimentel, Managing Partner  
Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates  
6512 Painter Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90601

Dear Mr. Pimentel,

Allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere interest in leading Florida State University as its next President. Higher education is a critical component in developing citizens, innovators, entrepreneurs, employees, healthy institutions, and a just and fair government. Leading Florida State University, a Top-20 Public University in the greatest state in the country, would be the honor of a lifetime.

This is an exciting time in the history of Florida State University. President John Thrasher has propelled the university to great success. He has done this because he possesses an unusual combination of strengths, including strategic planning, social skills, collaborating with stakeholders, fundraising, legislative experience, and executive leadership skills. I am confident that my track record reflects a similarly broad array of abilities, allowing me to build upon his impressive legacy.

Let me now address the credentials the advertisement for the position suggests and how my background, experience, and skills relate to these qualifications.

*Reporting to the FSU Board of Trustees, the President serves as the university's chief executive officer and provides senior administrative leadership for all campus programs, services, operations, and activities.*

As a practicing attorney, elected official, and public servant, I have spent my entire career "reporting" to others.

In my professional, private life, I represent my client's interests in negotiations, arbitrations, and legal proceedings. While I am their advocate and legal advisor, I serve their interests, not mine. They do not always follow my advice, but regardless, I advocate aggressively on their behalf when they decide on the direction they wish to pursue.

In my roles as Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives and Florida's Education Commissioner, I reported to many people and constituencies. I honed the administrative and executive skills I had developed as the former Chief of Staff for the Florida House.

As Education Commissioner, I report to the State Board of Education and serve as the chief administrative officer of the K-12 and College System for our state. I manage an annual budget of approximately \$25 billion and oversee 15 divisions and offices, with over 2,200 employees. I am in regular contact with parents, teachers, administrators, and Superintendents.

In my role as Commissioner, I also oversee and regularly coordinate with the presidents of the Florida College System. This system encompasses 28 public community colleges and Colleges, comprising 72 campuses with over 46,000 employees, 733,000 students, and an annual budget of almost \$1.4 billion.

My constitutional role as Speaker gave me obligations to the membership of the House of Representatives as well as to over 20 million Floridians. Elected unanimously by the members, my responsibility was not only to serve as the chief executive of the Chamber but also answer to them regarding a multitude of issues and needs ranging from committee appointments to referring bills, presiding over the session, and representing them in my public dealings with the Senate President as well as with members of the Executive branch.

During my service as an elected member of the Florida House of Representatives, I "reported" to over 150,000 of my district's constituents. It was my ongoing responsibility to ascertain their needs and desires and be their advocate in Tallahassee. I made it a high priority to seek their input and ideas for legislative solutions to their wide-ranging problems. I became well known for my accessibility and "open-door" policy. I attribute my success as a House member to the people I served and their willingness to inform me throughout my legislative career.

My experience in maintaining a dialogue with various constituents, especially those who had no official voice, and representing them, ensures that, like President Thrasher, I will provide senior administrative leadership and support for all of the university's diverse campus programs, services, operations, and activities.

As to the requirement of reporting to the Florida State University Board of Trustees and serving as the university's chief executive officer at Florida State University is something I am confident that my background, experience, and skills more than satisfies.

*The next President will be a strategic and visionary leader charged with setting the university's academic vision, ensuring the effective leadership and management of the campus, and possessing a dedication to improving the lives of students and the educational, economic, and cultural welfare of the citizens of the State of Florida.*

Institutional visions must be collaborative. Any bold ideas I might have, must have the backing of others, but once a consensus is reached, strong leadership is necessary to make

the vision a reality. This is one of the most important lessons I have learned in life. The inability to work with others is the formula for failure, while genuine collective efforts are the keys to success.

All, not some but all, of what one might label as my visionary ideas have been achieved by listening, learning, amending, and finalizing my initial concepts by working with others. In my CV, the "Accomplishments" listed are the results of my visions being improved and advanced with the help of my colleagues and confidants. I believe I have documented tangible proof in my CV that when an idea is finalized, I have the necessary leadership to make it a reality.

As Speaker, I envisioned many things. As to higher education, my idea was to increase access and affordability for students, raise the national prominence of the Florida State University System, secure performance funding in higher education, and expand the Bright Futures Program. This vision was converted into meaningful legislation, which under my leadership, I was able to pass and provide the necessary funding.

When I began my tenure as Florida's Education Commissioner, I, working at the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady DeSantis, envisioned a future that included a more reasonable and just approach to teacher certification, a process to remove delays surrounding it, growing teacher salaries, improved per-pupil spending, and direct efforts and resources to dramatically improve safety in our schools and provide more assistance for the mental health of our children. In just two years...accomplished!

Listening to the concerns of the teacher's union, I expanded the time to earn certification from one year to three years. Relieving the stress and pressure future teachers felt they were under while still maintaining excellence in the classroom.

When I arrived at the Department of Education, there was a backlog of 31,000 teacher certifications. I resolved the backlog in four months and lowered the fees for teacher certification tests.

Through the efforts of my team and me, vast improvements were made to student safety and welfare. We secured over \$295 million in mental health funding for districts and schools to establish care for students and \$16.5 million to continue evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training for school personnel to identify and understand mental health and substance abuse problems.

Furthermore, we took Florida teacher's starting salaries from 26<sup>th</sup> nationwide to the top 5 in the country, and we provided \$500 million to address this and other compensation issues.

The vision, planning, leadership, and follow-through necessary to accomplish these and many more things are skills I will bring to Florida State University.

*The President will exercise overall leadership for the university's resource development and fundraising initiatives and will be responsible for ensuring the fiscal well-being of the campus.*

Both fundraising and funding are perhaps the most critical of all the responsibilities any university president is faced with these days. I have vast experience in these areas, including private sector fundraising, working with existing funding formulas, identifying available federal dollars, lobbying for funds as new opportunities and challenges emerge, establishing new programs, securing new funding from the state for existing needs, as well as cost savings which makes money available for other university priorities.

Private sector fundraising is challenging. I know. Anyone who offers themselves for public office understands the lack of money available from private donors, restrictions, the inability to take a charitable deduction for the contribution, and a host of other factors. Despite these obstacles, I have successfully raised tens of millions of dollars from private donors for my campaigns and the campaigns of others. If selected as President of Florida State University, one of my top priorities would be to launch another billion-dollar campaign to increase the current endowment. I realize the face-to-face engagement, time, and dedication that this requires, and my wife Anne and I are up to that challenge.

Regarding public funding, I believe I will be the best available candidate in this area. I have had the honor to serve with most current legislators and enjoy close personal friendships with many. We have worked together on various issues, including higher education, and they know my passion is real for Florida and its future. I will be a very active, tireless proponent for the essential funding this university needs to maintain its preeminence status and continue moving forward in significant national rankings.

During my more than decade-long public service, I have become well skilled in evaluating, understanding, and utilizing existing funding formulas. I will work vigorously to use them to our advantage. I will work with the faculty to establish new programs and secure money to be added to the base budget. I will lobby aggressively for funds as new opportunities and challenges emerge as I did when I secured additional mental health funding for Florida's young people.

It has been my privilege to serve with many and know almost all of Florida's Congressional delegation. I would renew and increase efforts to enlist them to obtain Florida's fair share of federal dollars and pursue additional research and grant money from Washington to direct to our outstanding faculty and students. I would increase efforts to identify all available federal grants and programs the university may be eligible to access and work to redirect funds, as I did as Education Commissioner with \$15.8 million of Title I funds.

My main focus will be to secure new funding from the state for existing needs, most importantly faculty salaries, with the goal of moving Florida State University into the top 50 in faculty salaries for publically funded universities in the next two years. I believe

with the relationships I have established with the Legislature, the Executive Branch, and as a member of the Board of Governors, I am well suited to take on this task.

Finally, for the university's continued fiscal well-being, the next President needs to take a deep dive into all aspects of the current budget to search for any cost savings that may be found without damage to various programs, units, faculty, or staff. A serious look needs to be made to close the gap between faculty and administrator's compensation. Some money for faculty raises may presently be available given the proper analysis.

*In serving as one of the leading spokespersons for higher education in the state, the next President will be an influential leader who must possess excellent interpersonal skills, judgment and diplomacy, personal and professional integrity, and a reputation for working collegially and collaboratively with internal and external constituencies.*

Those who have worked with me in various leadership capacities know that I will establish an environment for creativity and innovation for staff, faculty and students, and the state university system. The list of accomplishments provided in the attached CV attests to the numerous projects and successes that I have attained together leading a team of talented individuals. It would be a pleasure to work with Florida State University's Board of Trustees, the Board of Governors, and the Legislature in a generative fashion to take higher education in Florida to the next level.

It is one of the great joys in life to work with people, friends and foes, to talk, listen, compromise, chart a vision, and achieve success in areas of common concern. Victory should be a shared experience, and to achieve my victories, I have mostly done so with help from both my supporters and opponents. I am also well-versed in the challenges and opportunities facing higher education in our state and across our nation.

Visions converted into reality must be collaborative. I am proud of my history of bringing people together for the common good. As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, better than 8 out of every 10 pieces of legislation passed during my tenure received more than 90% support. Consensus building and achieving common results are a requirement of any successful leader.

*"Inclusion" was my primary goal as Speaker. Party affiliations notwithstanding. As then-Democratic House Minority Leader and now State Senator Janet Cruz said in her letter to the Board of Trustees, "Richard is a leader who is always accessible, maintaining an open door policy even in moments of contentious disagreement. This exact character trait oftentimes resulted in the very compromise that became a theme of his tenure as Speaker of the House. He understood the value of uniting both parties to achieve success for all Floridians."*

Former colleague, former Florida State University Trustee, and current State Senator Joe Gruters said in his nomination letter stated, *"While serving as Speaker, his ability to set goals, promote his vision, lead the membership, and negotiate and handle difficult situations was evident. We occasionally disagreed on policy decisions, but this open-*

*door policy allowed discussions to continue, and we could reach mutual understandings – the sign of an exceptional leader.”*

The Florida teacher’s union leaders came to me with the age-old problem of Florida having one of the lowest compensation for teachers in the nation. We went to work on that problem and moved Florida from the bottom half to the top 5 average starting compensation. Former President of the Florida Education Association, Fedrick Ingram, said in his letter to you, *“It might seem odd that a union leader and classroom educator, who has differed at times over policy with Commissioner Richard Corcoran, would submit a letter of recommendation on his behalf. However, I do so without hesitation because I have come to know firsthand his skillset and ability to bring key stakeholders together to meet our educational mission . . .”*

Finally, while Education Commissioners historically have had trying relationships with Florida’s Superintendents of Schools, their sitting President, Dr. Michael Grego, wrote about my relationship with them as *“I can attest to the fact that there has never been a closer partnership between school districts and the FDOE ... Richard is well-respected and highly regarded across the state of Florida. I have found him to be an incredibly collaborative leader who recognizes that having a great team is the way to make positive, sustainable transformation.”*

I understand the social, civic, and political obligations that will accompany being the “face” of the university, should the honor of this office present itself. Politeness, respect, dignity, thoughtfulness, and warmth will be my approach to everyone I encounter, and I will serve all of the Florida State University community with kindness, understanding, and respect.

*The President will act as a catalyst for creativity and innovation and will work with FSU’s Board of Trustees, the State of Florida Legislature, and the State University System of Florida Board of Governors to further enhance higher education in Florida.*

Through the years, I have had the great fortune to know many FSU Board of Trustees members. Many of them have come to me over the years to promote Florida State University and point out its many achievements and its benefits to our state.

The Florida Legislature was my home as a staff member and as an elected representative for over a decade. Many of my closest friends in life still serve there, and many of my former House colleagues have now been elected to the State Senate. Furthermore, I also count among my friends the dozens of Florida State University graduates who serve the citizens of Florida as dedicated staff members, some of the finest public servants I have had the pleasure of dealing with.

Finally, it is my pleasure to not only personally know all of the members of the State University System of Florida Board of Governors, but my privilege of serving as a current member. We work extraordinarily well together, and I would strive to continue that great collaboration.



*It is preferred that the successful candidate possess an earned doctorate or other terminal degree with a strong record of scholarship and teaching, and a proven history of executive level administrative experience in higher education that demonstrates the ability to lead a large, public research university.*

My years as a lawyer have served me well with many aspects of my varied career. I earned my Juris Doctorate degree, and I have taken and passed the proficiency exam for my profession. I have served as a member in good standing of the Florida Bar for more than two decades. I have also performed my Florida Bar obligations by doing the mandated pro bono work and completing my annual continuing education requirements.

In the practice of law, I learned my skills to advocate for others, listen, compromise, settle, and some cases, do battle for the people I represented. This included taking on big businesses. The contingency fee option is the only way for the common person to challenge the resources of large corporations in civil court. While it pays nothing to the attorney should victory not be achieved, it is designed to level the playing field for participants in the legal system. It taught me to stand firm and work hard for my clients, and then later my constituents, regardless of whether or not I would be successful.

My experience and leadership in higher education are well documented in the material I have noted above and listed in my CV. I would point especially to my executive-level responsibility and oversight for the Florida College System and my service as a member of the State University System of Florida Board of Governors. As would any other university president, I will rely heavily on the faculty to perform its role in the shared governance of a university.

*While academic experience (professional and administrative) is strongly desired, exceptional candidates with nontraditional backgrounds who have demonstrated a high degree of national or international success in business, industry, nonprofit or government will be considered.*

In 1994, Betty Castor broke through the glass ceiling, becoming the first former legislator to head up a state university in Florida. Florida State University has had the good fortune of former state legislators Sandy D'Alemberte, TK Wetherell, and John Thrasher to serve successfully as its President. Presidents Wetherell and Thrasher, of course, were also former Speakers. With its reliance on state funding and its proximity to state government, Florida State University has been well served by individuals who are connected and familiar with those who control the state's operations and budget.

Over 155 universities and colleges around the country are run by "non-academic" lawyers. It is my understanding a few of them may be interested in this current opening. As Joe Gruters pointed out in his nomination letter, *"Richard has achieved national prominence as a leader in education, particularly with his success in teacher compensation and taking on the debate surrounding Common Core . . . His demand for a fair, non-partisan, transparent process is well known."*

I believe I have unique qualities, skills, and experience to best serve Florida State University. I have a genuine passion for education, concrete examples of inclusive, collaborative successes, a long history of visionary leadership and success, experience in the legislative process, success in fundraising, and many years to dedicate to Florida's continued progress and advancement of Florida State University.

Sincerely,

*Richard M. Corcoran*