

J. Keith Arnold
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Educational Background

Ph.D., Business Adm./Health Care Adm. Concentration, Northcentral University (2015)
M.A., Pastoral Theology, Barry University (2007)
B.A., Government and Economics, Florida State University (1981)
A.A., Political Science, Edison Community College (1979)

Professional Service

General narrative: from 2000 until the present time, I have lobbied the Florida Legislature on behalf of local and statewide clients. The clients generally, but not always, fall into one of three descriptions: health care, local government, and higher education. Over the years, thousands of policy issues have been addressed, and millions of dollars secured for both programmatic and capital needs.

2012-2017 Fowler White Boggs/Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
Senior Principal – Government Relations

After lobbying the Florida Legislature for 12 years through my own boutique firm, I merged my business in with Fowler White Boggs, who later merged into the national firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney is approximately a 500 person firm with offices primarily on the eastern seaboard from Buffalo to Miami. While we do have a Washington, D.C. presence, and a large lobby team there, my duties and responsibilities are limited to the State of Florida.

1998-2012 Arnold & Blair, Florida Lobby Assoc., J. Keith Arnold and Assoc.
Partnerships and Employment

Beginning in 1998, I began formally working in the lobby industry. While the company went through multiple iterations as partners retired or moved on, the clients represented remained quite stable. Many of the clients I represent today, started with me in those earlier years.

Public Service

General narrative: from 1982 until 1998 I served in the Florida House of Representatives, representing the citizens of Ft. Myers and the 73rd District. While the positions within the House varied from term to term, it was here that I was able to play a meaningful role in the creation of FGCU.

1982-1998 Representative, State of Florida

1992-1996 Chair, House Education Appropriations Sub-Committee

During these terms, I was responsible for all education budgets including: Pre-K, K-12, vocational/technical schools, community college and state university funding. I was responsible for the initial funding needs of FGCU, including project design and engineering, site preparation, and construction of facilities.

1990-1992 Chair, House Higher Education Committee

During this term of office, I was responsible for the policy direction of the State University System, and Community College System. As chair of this committee, I was able to introduce a bill creating the "tenth university," which the full House of Representatives and Florida Senate agreed to. Governor Lawton Chiles signed the bill into law on the steps of the Lee County Courthouse in Ft. Myers, on May 3, 1991.

1988-1990 Majority Leader

At 29 years old, I was believed to be the youngest Majority Leader in state history and the youngest Majority Leader in the nation at that time. Through this leadership post, I along with many others from Southwest Florida continued to lobby tirelessly for the creation of a new university in our area. Being responsible to help steer all legislation through the Florida House of Representatives, this post put me in intimate contact with all Members, on all issues within the House.

1986-1988 Chair, Tourism and Cultural Affairs

These were the very formative years, when discussions of building a new university in Southwest Florida began in earnest.

Awards

Over the course of decades of public service and advocacy, I have received dozens of awards and tributes. One stands out. In 1995 I received the Man of the Year Award from the New-Press, an honor I shared with Tommy Howard posthumously, for our work on FGCU.

Current Affiliations

Board of Trustees----Hodges University

Board of Directors---Migrant Poor Foundation for the Diocese of Venice

Board of Directors---Villa Francisco Senior Housing for St. Francis Xavier Church

Lector---St. Cecilia Catholic Church