

Viewpoint Seminole

Panel Members



Dr. Michael Abels, instructor, public policy & local government administration, University of Central Florida... a faculty position he's held since 2008. Abels has an extensive level of experience in the local government arena having served in city manager roles in Deland, Palm Bay & Longwood, Florida in addition to leadership roles in the Brevard County Sheriff's Office of Administrative Services.



Dr. Michael Hoover is a professor of Political Science at Seminole State College where he has taught for more than 30 years. He's a lifelong native of Central Florida graduating from Evans High School in Orlando and gaining his undergrad degree from the University of Florida, his Master's degree in political science at the University of Central Florida, and his Ph.D. in the same subject at the Union Institute in Cincinnati.



Steve Barnes, former chairman, Democratic Party, Seminole County. He has lived in Seminole County since 1991, though raised in Brevard County & born in Maryland. He's been a journalist for the Sanford Herald, Orlando Sentinel & the Associated Press. He's held elective office as a commissioner for the Seminole Soil & Water Conservation Board. He ran for but was not elected to a seat in the Florida House.



Frank Ioppolo, Jr., has been a lawyer since 1991. His practice involves a variety of business, securities, financing, advertising, and regulatory matters. His contacts and relationships at the local, state and federal governmental levels have been instrumental in helping clients achieve their government affairs goals. Frank's contributions to the Central Florida community led the Orlando Business Journal to recognize him on four separate occasions as one of the Most Influential Men in Central Florida.



John F. Bush, former mayor, City of Winter Springs serving not only as the face of that growing & prosperous city but also as a city appointee to many of the region's most involved & civically active boards. In 2012 he ran for a seat in the Florida Legislature though lost in the primary. Bush is a native of Indiana, having moved to Winter Springs 30 years ago.



Jeanne Morris is a former Seminole County Public School Board member and a former chair of that board. Morris currently serves as president of the League of Women Voters of Seminole County.



Turner Clayton, Jr., is president of the Seminole County Branch of the NAACP. He relocated to Sanford at age 4. He served his community for more than 25 years in various areas of law enforcement and corrections. Turner is a tax accountant and business consultant.



Randall Morris is a business and public affairs consultant with RM Strategies, Inc. He represents clients on policy issues before various governmental bodies. Morris is a former mayor of Lake Mary & a former commissioner on the Seminole County Commission for 3 terms from 1994 to 2006. He served 10 years as the chairman of Legislative Affairs on the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of Counties. Morris has led six trade missions to Europe in pursuit of economic development in Seminole County.



Russell Hauck, former 3-term mayor & 10-year commissioner, city of Altamonte Springs. Hauck has 19 years of service in local elected office and 30 years in the training and simulation technology industry. Professionally, Russ has served as Executive Director and President of the National Center for Simulation located in Orlando.



Saima Qureshi is a former pediatrician & medical toxicologist. Recently retired to pursue her avocation as an artist, Saima was born in Pakistan & moved to Detroit for her medical training & practice at University Hospital. She moved to Central Florida with her husband and children in 2008. She is a founding member of the Muslim Women's Organization of Orlando and a member of the American Muslim Community Centers located in Longwood.



Judith Dolores Smith is a native of Sanford Florida, a third generation resident of Oviedo, Smith has broad experience in social work. In 2010, she ran for but did not win a city council seat in Oviedo.

Moderators



Desta L. Horner is CMF Public Media's non-salaried, volunteer co-founder & senior producer. She is a former high school teacher who served 31 years in Seminole County Public Schools. She is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Master's Degree from the University of Central Florida. During her teaching career she traveled extensively, visiting every continent. These trips included educational research in Nigeria & Israel made possible by Fulbright scholarship seminars. She eagerly embraces her role as grandmother to five wonderful children & volunteers in early childhood literacy & at the Hope Foundation for the homeless.



Stephen McKenney Steck serves as CMF Public Media's non-salaried & volunteer founder, president/CEO & senior producer. An Orlando native, Steck is a 54-year local media veteran. He retired in 2008 after 36 consecutive years as CEO of WMFE-TV & radio – Central Florida's public broadcasting stations. Steck's recognized skills as a leader in a community based non-profit media organization like WMFE gives credence to the public media mission he is establishing for CMF.