



## Best and the brightest gathering at Future of Florida Forum this week

By *Peter Schorsch* on October 13, 2013

Gov. Rick Scott joins prominent Florida political and business leaders to address what's next for the Sunshine State at the 2013 Future of Florida Forum.

The three-day consortium, hosted by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation, will include some of the state's foremost CEOs, international policy leaders, elected officials, small business and non-profit representatives.

Each day of the Forum will focus on a separate conference — Florida Trade & Logistics Study 2.0, the 2013 Healthcare Summit and the Future of Florida Briefing.

They will all gather at the Disney Contemporary Resort in Orlando Monday through Wednesday to examine strategies that ensure the state's reputation as a leading competitor in the world marketplace.

Meetings, briefings and networking opportunities are at the top of the Forum schedule, covering vital issues such as trade, manufacturing and education, as well as the parts they play in Florida's sustainable future.

In addition to Scott, Forum speakers include:

- Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam
- Florida CFO Jeff Atwater
- Florida House Speaker Will Weatherford
- Senate President Don Gaetz
- Gray Swoope, Secretary of Commerce, President & CEO Enterprise Florida

On Monday, the events begin with an in-depth analysis of logistics and transportation, underscored by the release of the Trade & Logistics Study 2.0, Florida's most comprehensive examination of manufactured resource management and delivery.

Among those presenting the Trade & Logistics Summit:

- Bentina Terry, Vice President External Affairs & Corporate Services, Gulf Power, Inc., Chair of the Florida Chamber Foundation

- Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Doug Davidson, Market Executive, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Chair, Trade and Logistics 2.0 Steering Committee

Florida's Business Alliance for Competitive Healthcare Solutions (Healthcare Alliance) will also make its inaugural appearance Monday. Healthcare Alliance is a consortium of healthcare and technology leaders assembled to form marketplace solutions and ways of reducing the state's healthcare costs.

Discussing of the role of healthcare for Florida's future will be:

- Florida Surgeon General John Armstrong
- Dr. Michael Good, Dean, University of Florida College of Medicine
- Mary Lou Sole, Interim Dean, University of Central Florida College of Nursing
- Belinda Keiser, Vice Chancellor, Keiser University

Tuesday, the Forum holds a "Future of Florida Briefing," kicked off with a speech by U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio titled "Insights from the Hill." The briefing continues by looking at STEM education, entrepreneurial and legislative trends that affect Florida's future economy and society.

Florida's political landscape will also be among the day's other topics as Justin Sayfie, government relations consultant and CEO of Sayfie Media, presents his 2013 "Disruption" Report. Joining in the political discourse will be Weatherford, Atwater and Marian Johnson, Florida Chamber's Senior Vice President of Political Strategy.

Wednesday will close the event with the Florida Chamber Board of Governors Annual Meeting, headed by Agriculture Commissioner Putnam. The panel discussion will be followed by insights from Gov. Scott, as the Chamber reviews the results of the 2013 Small Business Survey, which tracks issues and trends affecting small businesses.

Onsite registration is available during the Forum and the West Registration Desk at Disney's Contemporary Resort, 4600 World Drive, in Lake Buena Vista. To book a hotel room or get more information on events, speakers and networking opportunities visit [www.flchamber.com](http://www.flchamber.com).