



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

February 2020

Dear Guest:

On behalf of the State of Florida, it is my privilege to welcome you to Tampa for the 2020 International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Leadership Summit.

Here in Florida, we are proud of our business-friendly environment. We have the best public university system in the nation and remain a low-tax state with a reasonable regulatory climate. We also pride ourselves on our commitment to the environment, which supports a high quality of life for our residents and enjoyable getaway for our visitors.

Since assuming office, my administration has focused on building upon these strengths, particularly through new education and environment initiatives. In our first budget we secured funding for a new apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship grant program; we secured the largest single investment in the country to train teachers to teach computer science; and we secured enough funding to clear wait-lists for scholarships that empower parents to make decisions about their child's education, including clearing the wait-list for scholarships for students with unique abilities.

We were also able to secure record funding for our environment. The funding put us well on our way to accomplish my goal of \$2.5 billion over the next four years for Everglades restoration and protection of our water resources, which will be \$1 billion more than was spent in the previous four years. We were able to do all of this with a balanced budget that delivered nearly \$400 million in tax relief to Florida families.

Looking ahead, I am committed to sharing Florida's appeal with business leaders here in the United States and internationally. Through examples like our rapidly growing commercial aerospace industry, there is no doubt the business world is becoming more and more aware of all Florida has to offer.

I hope you will take some time this week to learn more about why Florida continues to be a place where opportunity thrives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor