

Sandy D'Alemberte and the LeRoy Collins Institute

Sandy D'Alemberte, who died unexpectedly on May 20, 2019, has been appropriately recognized as a brilliant legal mind and international champion of human rights. But he was also the initial inspiration for as well as an integral and active member of the LeRoy Collins Institute board—having serving on the board since its beginning 31 years ago.

Sandy began working to secure funding for a public policy center at FSU in 1986 with the help of Jim Apthorp. In December 1988, the LeRoy Collins Center for Public Policy was launched at a press conference attended by the governor of Florida, Chancellor of the State University System, president of FSU, and Sandy, then dean of the FSU Law School. The new center opened its doors in the Cawthon House on the FSU law school Village Green, another of Sandy's successful projects. Sandy helped secure an endowment of \$4 million for the LeRoy Collins Center which was charged with developing and recommending policies to shape the future of Florida. (He also secured endowment funding for the LeRoy Collins eminent scholar faculty position at FSU.) The newly formed Collins Center was directed by retired U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles.

Sandy helped negotiate the transition from the Center to the LeRoy Collins Institute in 2000 and continued to be an active member of the board. He attended most meetings and contributed in his dignified but persuasive manner. It was Sandy's suggestion that the Institute take the lead in a public education effort prior to the 2017-2018 Constitutional Revision Commission. The Institute was the lead among 18 partners in what became known as the Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution. This partnership published 150,000 Citizens' Guides on the CRC, developed an interactive webpage, and made numerous presentations across the state. Sandy was the star of an animation developed for the partnership that can be viewed here: <http://revisefl.com/index.php/resources/video-gallery>

Sandy was a major force in the launch of the Institute's Tough Choices series in 2005 and was a strong supporter of the Institute's work on resegregation of Florida's schools. He was a towering figure, a warm and loyal friend, a hero to many, a strong policy advocate, and always a force for good and fighter for justice.

To the Collins Institute, he was a guiding light, continual source of good advice, and always a beacon to the future. He appropriately reminded the board of the goals of the institute as articulated by Gov. Collins: to gather knowledge of Florida's most pressing needs, to bring those needs into clear focus, and to assist in the development of effective ways and means for meeting them for the good of the state's citizens. He will be missed, but his contributions to and legacy for the Collins Institute will continue.