

ANDY FORD

FEA President

Andy Ford has always wanted to be a teacher. In fact, it's the only thing he can ever remember wanting to be. So, he has dedicated his life to education. As president of the Florida Education Association (FEA), Andy is no longer standing at the front of the classroom. Instead, he's standing on the frontline, fighting for those working hard to provide Florida students with a world-class education.

“The people FEA represents are among the very best people—their love of students, their passion for educating the next generation, and their commitment to teaching and public service is inspiring,” says Andy. “I cherish the opportunity to work with members and visit schools and worksites to hear the stories of members and students.”

As president of FEA, Andy represents more than 140,000 school employees in Florida's public schools, community colleges, and universities. FEA members include Pre-K through 12th grade teachers, education staff professionals, higher education faculty, graduate assistants, retired members, and staff.

Under Andy's leadership, FEA strongly advocates for what's best for members, the students, and the public schools of Florida, including:

- Opposing damaging public education policies;
- Developing non-traditional alliances and working in a bipartisan manner to move education issues forward; and
- Mobilizing members to strengthen FEA's voice on important education matters.

Andy was also instrumental in stopping a 2008 ballot measure that would have misled voters and damaged public schools.

“FEA's work builds better schools. Better schools build better communities. Better communities build a better state. And a better state builds a better nation,” notes Andy. “FEA fights for high-quality public schools for every student, dignity and justice for all workers, equal opportunities regardless of race or gender, and fulfillment of the great American dream. Our work helps build a better world for the next generation.”

Andy has held many positions as an education leader, including FEA Vice-President and President of Duval Teachers United in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, he is a member of

Duval Teachers United and the Leon Classroom Teachers Association, and he serves as an American Federation of Teachers Vice President on its Executive Council.

Andy, a native of Princeton, New Jersey, earned a Bachelors of Arts degree from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida. His major was elementary and secondary education with a minor in social sciences. He taught in a Catholic school in Trenton, New Jersey, and in urban public elementary schools in Jacksonville.

As president of FEA, Andy has stressed authentic and meaningful accountability.

“I left the classroom and became fully involved in union work so I could help more students than I could reach in a single school year,” Andy says. “FEA’s work is more than a job; it’s a calling, a mission. Knowing that you have helped open new opportunities for members and students is gratifying.

By working together, FEA can make our schools a priority.”

Imagine the future!

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