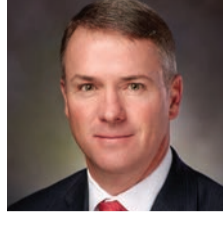


From the Executive Director

If you're reading this newsletter should have received communications from OneJax on March 8, 2023 announcing that OneJax and the University of North Florida have mutually agreed to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that joined our two entities together in 2012. The full text of the announcement can be read below.

The Board and staff of OneJax believes that many of the regulations and pieces of legislation currently pending in Tallahassee that will affect the state's university system are in direct contradiction to the mission and vision of our organization. Diversity, inclusivity and equality are at the heart and soul of the work we do to bring the different people of our community together. In order to for us to move forward with our plans for growth, expansion and a united community, it was agreed that it would be best if OneJax was no longer an Institute of UNF. The agency's nonprofit 501(c)3 designation is being reactivated.

We appreciate the support of our friends and donors and will will keep you posted as more details regarding the transition become available.



Kyle J. Reese
Kyle Reese
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 8, 2023

The OneJax Institute board has voted unanimously to dissolve its affiliation with the University of North Florida. The OneJax Institute and UNF have begun the process of terminating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that joined the two organizations in 2012. The organization is re-activating its independent 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

"OneJax is proud to have been a part of the UNF community and appreciates the mutually beneficial relationship we have enjoyed with the University these past 11 years," said Kyle Reese, OneJax Executive Director. "The current political climate in our state is impacting every state university, and we do not want the core mission and vision of our 53-year-old organization to be restrained or restricted," Reese said.

Reese also made a point of reiterating that since first becoming affiliated and as part of the terms of the MOU, OneJax has been responsible for raising its own operating funds. These funds make it possible for the organization to offer programs and services to help Jacksonville become a diverse and inclusive community — one where everyone has equal opportunity. "We are in a good financial position and expect to continue raising the operating funds necessary for us to continue our plans for growth and expansion," said Reese.

Referring to the board's decision, UNF President Moez Limayem stated that it's been his experience that affiliations and collaborations like the one between UNF and OneJax change and shift over time. "This is not an unusual occurrence," Limayem said. "We part as friends, and I wish OneJax well as it continues to pursue its work in the greater Jacksonville community."

OneJax and the University will be working together to develop a transition plan. Information will be shared when available.

About OneJax, Inc.

MISSION

OneJax is an interfaith organization dedicated to achieving civility, understanding and respect for all people.

VISION

Jacksonville is an inclusive community where human differences are welcomed, sought out and understood.



OneJax is an interfaith organization that promotes respect and understanding among people of different religions, races, cultures, orientations and identities. For 53 years, through education, community building and advocacy, OneJax has worked to make Northeast Florida a better place for everyone by celebrating differences and identifying all we have in common.

We believe Jacksonville can become an inclusive community, especially when we can be *Different Together*. More information at onejax.org.



We're Counting on You

OneJax has been blessed with meaningful support from loyal donors, sponsors, friends and community leaders over the years. As mentioned in the announcement above, we have always been responsible for raising our own funds for operations and programming. We are on the solid financial footing to move forward independently but we'll absorb additional expenses for resources that had been provided to us by UNF—accounting and data support, tech support and office space, among others.

As a result, we are asking you to consider an extra gift to OneJax this year—we have never needed your steadfast commitment more. Any additional support you can provide will help navigate our transition. If it's easier, we encourage you to become a monthly donor with as little as \$10 per month. Whatever you choose, please know that when you give to OneJax, you are actively working to create an inclusive community—one where everyone is seen, heard and welcome. [Donate Here.](#)

CELEBRATE HUMANITARIANS ON MAY 4th!

Our pending transition from UNF, which we don't expect to culminate before the end of our fiscal year on June 30, 2023, is in no way interfering with our plans—or fundraising efforts! — for this year's Humanitarian Awards event, scheduled for May 4th at the Jacksonville Center for the Performing Arts. Invitations are going into the mail this week, but if you don't want to wait, tickets or sponsorship commitments are available online. [Simply click here.](#)

In an almost prescient gesture, the theme of this year's event is "Together We Can." We believe—now more than ever—that when we work together to unify our community and celebrate our differences, we can help to bring an end to hate and accomplish things only great cities can.



Lowry A. "Lad" Daniels, Jr.

Stacey Goldring

Kimberly Allen, Ph.D.

Nina Waters

Cindy Smith-Funkhouser, MSW

Getting the Message Out

In the midst of the local election, watch your screens in April for some positive messages that identify Jacksonville as a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community where everyone has the opportunity for a good life. In collaboration with the Together Strong Fund established by the Miller families at the Jewish Federation and Foundation and its other partners, OneJax will launch a campaign to help bring our city together. Campaign to person. Neighborhood by neighborhood. We are *all* Jacksonville. And it's time for everyone to be reminded of what great, inclusive cities can do!



Upcoming Events

- **March 23, 2023:** Community Suppers at various locations [Click here for info](#)
- **March 30, 2023:** Virtual Community Supper [Click here for info](#)
- **May 4, 2023:** Humanitarian Awards Event [Click here for tickets and info](#)