



## **Jeff Kronschnabl Grassroots Leadership Program**

Having spent 37 years with the City of Clearwater, Jeff has been on both sides of government creating safe and sustainable communities. He spent 27 years as a law enforcement officer and most recently as the Director of Development & Neighborhood Services.

When approached by the USF Jim Walter Partnership Center to help instruct and participate in the local Grassroots Leadership Program, Jeff did not imagine that his insight would soon expand well beyond the Tampa Bay region.

Seeing a need to educate citizens on the best way to approach local government to get issues identified and addressed, Jeff's Grassroots Leadership class undertook this challenge as its community project. His team developed a CD providing insight on how to articulate, address and resolve issues when approaching government.

The CD gained the attention of the FBI Academy in Washington, D.C., the premier law enforcement education and training center in the country. Jeff was asked to expand the program his Leadership team created, and it is now incorporated into the Academy's curriculum targeted at forging partnerships that ensure community safety and security.

The best way to prevent crime is to tackle the effects of neglect and abuse, poor living conditions and widespread crime-related issues head-on and at their sources. The Grassroots Leadership Program and this class project empowers residents and businesses to resolve issues through positive relationship building with local government.

“Government alone can't sustain a community. Neighborhoods and the people within them are the cornerstone to creating a sense of community,” said Jeff. “When citizens address local government regarding areas of concern in their community, they're taking it upon themselves to solve problems and improve quality of life.”

Grassroots leaders come from all walks of life and experience levels. Having been a Grassroots Leadership instructor and participant, Jeff recognized the investment potential of the program. His staff and others within the City of Clearwater office have completed the program as well.

### **About the Grass Roots Leadership Program**

The USF Jim Walter Partnership Center offers the Grassroots Leadership Program to area residents, youth, USF students and business professionals. The program provides a unique opportunity for participants to interact with community leaders to address community issues. Using a specialized curriculum designed to engage and empower participants, the program teaches leadership skills, team building, effective communication and project and meeting planning to help participants become agents of change. Each class is challenged to create, plan and develop a community project. Local leaders are invited to share their stories, inspire participants to be effective leaders and help develop the community projects.