



Plenary: Taking Your Development/ Fundraising Up a Level

Lisa Thomson: President / CEO, The American Chestnut Foundation

Lisa Thomson is a lifelong conservationist. She was a resident of Central Florida for more than 45 years, and has traveled extensively for business and pleasure. After receiving her undergraduate degree in art and biology from Stetson University, she went on to earn a master's degree in design at Florida State University. For more than 28 years, she worked at The Nature Conservancy, an international non-profit conservation organization, first as a conservation land manager and administrator, and then as a senior philanthropy officer and team leader. In 2010, she was recruited to join Rollins College's senior administration as an Associate Vice President to lead a development team for its capital campaign.

In 2015, Lisa joined The American Chestnut Foundation as its President & CEO to build on its loyal constituency and help restore the magnificent American chestnut tree to its native range. Her expertise includes conservation land management, negotiating philanthropic gifts, estate planning, family philanthropic advising, and the building and mentoring of teams. Lisa and her husband Walt live in Asheville, North Carolina and have two grown children, Emily and Mac.