

Equal Education for All

Florida has welcomed a rich and successful history from its metaphoric birth as a state in 1845 due to strong-willed, intelligent legislators that have taken the state – and perhaps even the rest of the country – by storm. If I were to be elected to public office, I would choose to serve on the Florida House of Representatives as to represent my community in southern Florida. With my power as a legislator for the state, my main focus would be on the issue of education of the children within my community.

According to the Florida Department of Education, the high school graduation rates from the 2015-2016 school year were at around 80%. This number is just below America's overall graduation rate, which is currently at 84%. While though this percentage is above states like Oregon and New Mexico, each with their respective 69% and 70% graduation rates, Florida still has room to improve. Separating the Florida graduation rate by race and ethnicity shows where this improvement could be made; while white and Asian students have graduation rates in the upper eighties to low nineties, students of Hispanic or Latino, African American, and Native American heritage have rates that range from the low sixties to the upper seventies. Because education and the quality of it is directly tied to economic status and therefore, quite unfortunately, to race, this shows that students of these minorities often face hardships that can keep them from furthering and growing in their knowledge. The education of all people, regardless of skin color or origin, is integral to not only their personal success, but to the success of our community as a whole. No student should be held back because of reasons that they simply cannot control.

Like Nancy Detert, I'd be sure to address this problem without holding back on my opinion. Detert, formerly from Chicago before relocating to Florida, currently serves as a

Sarasota County Commissioner, though is most known for her four terms in which she served as a representative for the Florida House and her two terms as a senator for the Sunshine State. She is known for speaking her mind, despite how possibly controversial the issue at hand is, and that is an attribute that is incredibly useful in all situations, though especially as a legislator.

Addressing the problems that directly link education to economic status and therefore race would include, but wouldn't be limited to, renovating schools in areas that hold a strong population of these certain minorities and letting all people aware of the link between a strong education and success as an adult.

As the U.S. becomes more and more diverse, the push on a basic foundation of knowledge can help many young people of minorities achieve future life goals, regardless of any personal reasons. My work as a Florida representative could help many young adults out there struggling through their own silent battles, and in turn, they could help change the world.