

INDIA ASSOCIATION OF TALLAHASSEE

India Association of Tallahassee
PO Box 12111
Tallahassee, FL 32317
Monday, May 24, 2010

Honorable Charlie Crist
Office of the Governor, State of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist, First Lady of Florida, Clyde, Bob, and others,

On behalf of all the Asian Pacific American Communities in Florida and India Association of Tallahassee in particular I would like to thank you for inviting us this evening to the "People's House". You truly are a "People's Governor".

You are the first Florida governor to declare May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month thereby recognizing the contributions Asian Americans have made to our great state. You have started the tradition last year and have continued it this year for which we are very thankful.

The theme for 2010 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration is "Diverse leadership for diverse work force". "Diversity" appears prominently in your working philosophy and your pledge to people of Florida. As many of us in this gathering know that you have put this into practice by nominating and selecting people with diverse background in your administration.

One of benefits of gathering like this is people with diverse backgrounds and cultures realize your willingness to listen to and engage with them. Your invitation especially makes a great impression in young people, like my son, who are the future of Florida. They understand that you truly appreciate the diversity of people. This I hope will make young people with diverse backgrounds to get involved in public service.

I conclude by noting that Asian Pacific Americans appreciate your gesture and we will all work with you in tackling the problems facing our state and make it the greatest state in the US. Thank you.

Thayumanasamy Somasundaram, Ph. D
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