

# COUNTY MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT



# SUCCESS STORIES | 2015

## PUBLIC SAFETY



Seminole County Fire Chief Leeanna Mims retired after 30 years of public safety service in the county. Chief Mims began her career volunteering at the Lake Mary Fire Department while in high school. After attending Minimum Firefighting Standards, Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic school from Seminole State College of Florida, she was hired by the City of Longwood in 1984. Chief Mims was promoted through the ranks of Firefighter, Engineer, Lieutenant and Battalion Chief/Operations throughout a 15 year tenure with the City of Longwood. She also served as the City's EMS Manager, while working part-time for a private ambulance company, and teaching as adjunct instructor Seminole State College.

In 1999, she accepted a position with Seminole County as a Battalion Chief of Planning, and was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2002.

In 2005, Chief Mims was selected as the Seminole County Fire Chief, and served as one of the very few female leaders for a Metropolitan Fire Department. She helped to grow Seminole County's EMS/Fire/Rescue Division (SCEFRD) from an agency of 250 employees to one with 400 employees in 19 stations. She also facilitated mergers in 2002, 2008, and 2015 between SCEFRD and area municipalities. In 2014, the agency received the "EMS Service of the Year" award from the State of Florida's Department of Health, and is one of the few Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services certified fire departments in Florida.

### FAST FACT



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Chief Mims placed an emphasis on firefighter training, as well as health and wellness. She was at the helm for the opening of the Seminole County Fire Training Center, a 44,000 SF facility that opened in 2007. Chief Mims is a 1999 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program, and has degrees in fire and emergency medical services, and in business. She obtained her Master's Degree in Homeland Defense and Security from the Center of Homeland Defense and Security, Naval Post Graduate School. She served as a fire co-chair for Florida's Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Regional Coordinator for the State of Florida's Emergency Response Plan, co-chair of EMS/Fire Education Advisory Committee for Seminole State College, past Chair for Central Florida Task Force 4 Urban Search and Rescue Team, Subject Matter Expert for Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology working group for first responders and trained to serve as a GO team member for the International Association of Fire Chiefs.