

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sen. Scott visits Freedom Institute to engage with local students

Naples, Fla. (May 5, 2025) – U.S. Senator Rick Scott visited the Freedom Institute in Naples this week, where he addressed students and faculty during an engaging and inspiring session focused on civic responsibility, leadership and the importance of preserving American values.

During his visit Scott toured the facility, met with educators and held an open dialogue with students. He shared personal stories from his time in public service and emphasized the power of joining the workforce, personal accountability, and building relationships.

Scott and Tom Grady, a longtime public servant and advocate for education excellence, delivered a compelling presentation focusing on the vital role early work experience plays in shaping successful careers.

Scott shared his personal journey, starting with his first job at just seven years old selling TV Guides door-to-door. He spoke candidly about working 48-hour weeks during high school, putting himself through junior college and law school, and developing a mindset centered around responsibility, perseverance, and understanding cash flow.

“Every job I’ve ever had taught me something valuable,” Senator Scott told the students. “Work hard, be honest, it pays off.”

It’s not just about earning money, it’s about learning how the world works, how to solve problems, and how to create opportunities.

Tom Grady echoed those sentiments, emphasizing the importance of grit, discipline, and starting early. “Today’s students need to understand that getting a job is more than just a paycheck—it’s a launchpad for learning, character, and future success,” said Grady. “Work teaches independence, accountability, and resilience—all things we value here at The Freedom Institute.”

The event is part of the Institute’s ongoing speaker series, which brings influential leaders to campus to encourage thoughtful discussion and firsthand insight into the workings of government, policy and public service.

Freedom Institute’s CEO Christopher Marker expressed appreciation for Scott’s visit,

“We are honored to welcome Senator Scott and deeply value the time he spent engaging with our students. His messages reinforced the mission of the Freedom Institute: to cultivate informed, **patriotic**, principled, and active citizens to obtain economic **Freedom**.”