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**Statement from Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo, Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Doug Darling, Workforce Florida Board Chairman Dwayne Ingram and Workforce Florida President/CEO Chris Hart IV on Governor Rick Scott's actions regarding Workforce Central Florida**

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo, Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Doug Darling, Workforce Florida Inc. Board Chairman Dwayne Ingram and Workforce Florida President/CEO Chris Hart IV today expressed their full support of Governor Rick Scott's decision to reorganize Workforce Central Florida.

Workforce Central Florida is the federally funded, locally governed workforce board charged with administering job training and placement services to employers and job seekers in Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties.

The Governor's bold and swift action comes amid mounting concerns related to a series of operational and management deficiencies by the local board. Nearly \$5.3 million in expenditures since 2006 have not complied with federal fiscal requirements; additional spending is also under investigation. These recurring concerns prompted the Governor to place the local board under a high-risk designation, order the termination of its executive staff, call for the appointment of a new board of directors, and require additional state scrutiny of future expenditures including new mandatory state reporting of financial records.

The Department of Economic Opportunity, which becomes the administrative entity for Florida's workforce system on October 1, and Workforce Florida, the statewide policy-setting board, are firmly committed to working closely with Governor Scott and Central Florida leaders to improve accountability and transparency in the operation of Workforce Central Florida.

Collectively, the state agency and state board look forward to advancing the Governor's priority for improving efficiency, accountability and outcomes for Florida's nationally recognized workforce system. We believe that local workforce board leaders and professionals statewide share our commitment to ensuring the integrity of Florida's workforce system.

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