

MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Workforce Florida Launches Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing

New initiative will boost skills training for Florida's manufacturing workers

What: **Workforce Florida, Inc.** will launch the **Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing**, a statewide initiative aimed at improving the quality and availability of basic skills for entry-level manufacturing employees and advanced training for experienced workers.

Supported by a \$500,000 grant from Workforce Florida, the Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing will be based at Hillsborough Community College's Brandon campus. It will focus on providing high-demand skills training based on needs identified by Florida manufacturers. The Banner Center is among the first programs in the nation to develop curricula to prepare prospective and current workers for the new national certification in manufacturing. The initiative is a partnership of Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Manatee Community College, Pasco-Hernando Community College and Polk Community College.

Who: **Katherine E. Wilson**, Chairman, Workforce Florida, Inc.
Dr. Gwendolyn Stephenson, President, Hillsborough Community College
James A. Turner III, President, Tampa Armature Works, Inc. of Tampa
Anthony Fedd, Chairman, Workforce & Education Committee,
Manufacturing Association of Florida

When: **Tuesday, October 17, 2006**
10:30 a.m.

Where: TAW Custom Equipment
6312 78th St.
Riverview, Florida
(For a map and directions, visit www.WorkforceFlorida.com and click on the Banner Centers logo.)

Visuals: New, state-of-the-art metal fabrication facility with robotic equipment, lasers, and a heavy-equipment assembly line.

On-site: Adriane Glenn Grant, Workforce Florida, Inc., Communications Coordinator
(850) 921-1122

Interview opportunities and tours are available immediately following the news conference.