

MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Workforce Florida Launches Employ Florida Banner Center for Biotechnology

New initiative will boost skills training in Florida's biotechnology industry

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

The program, housed within the University of Florida Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology, is supported by a \$500,000 grant from Workforce Florida. The Employ Florida Banner Center will focus on developing curricula and providing high-demand skills training based on needs identified by the state's biotechnology sector. It is among the first four industry-specific centers being established this year to address workforce development needs in key Florida industries. The biotech workforce initiative is a partnership of the University of Florida, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Santa Fe Community College, Indian River Community College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering.

Who: **Katherine E. Wilson**, Chairman, Workforce Florida, Inc.
Dr. Winfred M. Phillips, Vice President for Research, University of Florida
Brian K. Hutchison, Chairman, President and CEO, Regeneration Technologies, Inc.

When: **Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006**
10:30 a.m.

Where: University of Florida Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology
13706 Innovation Drive
Alachua, Florida
(For a map and directions, visit www.WorkforceFlorida.com and click on the Banner Centers logo.)

Visuals: State-of-the-art University of Florida Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology Education Center with a cleanroom simulator and wet labs.

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

Interview opportunities are available immediately following the news conference.

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