

# ***MEDIA ALERT***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Workforce Florida Launches Employ Florida Banner Center for Financial Services at Miami Dade College**

#### ***New initiative will boost skills training in Florida's financial services industry***

**What:** **Workforce Florida, Inc.** will launch the **Employ Florida Banner Center for Financial Services at Miami Dade College**, a statewide initiative aimed at improving the quality and availability of basic skills training for entry-level financial services workers and advanced training for experienced employees.

The program, which is being housed within Miami Dade College's School of Business, is supported by a \$500,000 grant from Workforce Florida. The Employ Florida Banner Center will focus on providing high-demand skills training based on needs identified by the state's financial services sector. Industry-specific Employ Florida Banner Centers are being established throughout the state to address current and future workforce development needs in key Florida industries. Centers focusing on aviation and aerospace, biotechnology and manufacturing already have been launched. Additional centers are planned for industries including construction, energy, health care, homeland security and defense, information technology, and logistics and distribution.

**Who:** **Curtis Austin**, President, Workforce Florida, Inc.  
**Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón**, President, Miami Dade College  
**Beth Hicks**, Senior Client Partner, Korn-Ferry International

**When:** **Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Where:** Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus  
Batten Room, Building Two, Room 2106  
300 N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Miami, Florida  
(For a map and directions, visit [www.WorkforceFlorida.com](http://www.WorkforceFlorida.com) and click on the Banner Centers logo.)

**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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