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Contact:
Robby Cunningham, (850) 245-7130
Robby.cunningham@flaawi.com

Agency for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Florida, Inc. Release Joint Statement in Support of Workforce Development Month in Florida

TALLAHASSEE – Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Cynthia R. Lorenzo and Workforce Florida, Inc. President and CEO Chris Hart IV released the following joint statement in support of the Proclamation issued today by Governor Charlie Crist recognizing September as *Workforce Development Month in Florida*:

“With this Proclamation, Governor Crist demonstrates his commitment to the 9.2 million men and women of Florida’s workforce as we work collectively in pursuit of new opportunities to strengthen Florida’s families and reinvigorate our economy,” said Director Lorenzo. “The Agency for Workforce Innovation and Florida’s entire workforce system remain dedicated to providing the people of our great state with high-quality workforce services and developing a highly skilled workforce prepared to meet the needs of our business community – both now and in the future.”

“The commitment Florida’s leaders and workforce professionals have shown to helping Floridians enter and advance in the workforce and strengthening the state’s business climate has established our state as a nationally recognized workforce pioneer and a model for innovation,” said President Hart. “Governor Crist’s Proclamation reaffirms the importance our state has placed on ensuring Florida’s greatest resource, our people, have the knowledge and skills to make talent our key competitive advantage in today’s global economy.”

Florida’s Regional Workforce Boards are hosting several workforce development events throughout the state during the month of September. Please visit this link for a full listing of events: <http://www.floridajobs.org/events/WorkforceDevelopmentMonth.html>.

For more information, please visit the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation at www.floridajobs.org or Workforce Florida, Inc. at www.workforceflorida.com.



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, meaningful employment is fundamental to maintaining a healthy and vibrant economy as well as to providing Floridians with a sense of self-worth and contribution to their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the people of Florida are this state's greatest asset and vital to our ability to expand economic opportunities and firmly establish the Sunshine State as a global leader in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated men and women who support the workforce talent needs of Florida through the state workforce development system, which includes Workforce Florida, Inc., the Agency for Workforce Innovation, 24 Regional Workforce Boards and nearly 90 One-Stop Career Centers working with business, education, labor, economic development, government, community-based and other critical partners, are committed to assisting our state during these extraordinary economic times by providing exemplary career training and employment assistance to more than 1 million Floridians annually; and

WHEREAS, EmployFlorida.com, known as the Employ Florida Marketplace, receives 8 million hits daily and is the state's powerful online job matching and labor market information exchange tool, lists tens of thousands of job openings and provides employers access to nearly 200,000 resumes, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist people seeking new jobs and employers seeking new talent at no charge, and serves as an essential resource of the state workforce system and a gateway to additional services available to enhance Florida's workforce talent; and

WHEREAS, Florida's workforce system continues to serve as a national model for innovation and has been recognized with honors such as an International Economic Development Council Excellence Award for initiatives including Employ Florida Banner Centers, which serve as statewide, go-to resources for developing cutting-edge training with industry input to bolster skilled talent in sectors that diversify Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer leaders and workforce professionals within the state workforce system remain firmly committed to the top priority of helping unemployed Floridians get back to work and assisting those who are employed with advancing within their professions while maintaining the system's demand-driven, business-led focus and strengthening Florida's Talent Supply Chain to secure a more sustainable and vibrant economic future for our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 2009 as *Workforce Development Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capitol, this 9th day of September, in the year, two thousand nine.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.

Governor