

Dear Workforce Partners:

Fiscal year 2002-2003 is the third year of implementing Florida's pivotal workforce legislation, the Workforce Innovation Act of 2000. The challenges and changes Florida has experienced during these past several years have truly tested Florida's "new" approach to workforce development.

Governor Bush has not missed an opportunity to face these new challenges head-on and seek out innovative responses. These responses have enabled Florida to be among our nation's leading states in economic growth and prosperity.

Special thanks to my fellow Workforce Florida Board members, our regional boards, Agency for Workforce Innovation and partners throughout Florida for their creativity, diligence and team work deployed to keep our state strong and competitive. This year Workforce Florida committed over \$27 million to special training initiatives in key targeted industries and critical worker shortage areas. By partnering with both the public and the private sector, the state's investment was leveraged to over \$300 million for training our workforce.



Governor Bush understands the need for partnerships and coordination as evidenced in his unprecedented call for a unified strategic plan for Florida. The Governor charged Secretary of State Glenda Hood, Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Susan Pareigis and Enterprise Florida President & CEO Darrell Kelley to conduct a series of regional workshops throughout Florida to bring together business, community, government, economic and workforce development leaders to jointly identify priorities and action steps to strengthen and diversify Florida's economy. The resulting unified strategic plan will be available in January 2004.

Lt. Governor Toni Jennings, Workforce Florida's first Board Chair, also understands the need for partnerships and open dialog. She convened a series of roundtable meetings with business leaders throughout the state earlier this year to learn about their concerns and issues and to hear their ideas for new strategies and goals to further diversify and foster the growth of Florida's economy.

As you review the highlights of this year's accomplishments, note the theme of partnerships throughout: partnerships with other state entities/agencies, partnerships between workforce and economic development organizations, and partnerships with training providers and employers. These partnerships are what make Florida strong, flexible and responsive to the needs of our workforce and our businesses.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Gilley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond Gilley, Chairman
Workforce Florida Board of Directors