

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **POLK WORKS & POLK COUNTY SCHOOLS LAUNCH “SUCCESS AT WORK”**

### **Volunteers from the business community are needed for all High Schools**

**Bartow, FL** – Succeeding in the real world is exactly what the Success at Work program brings to high school students. With components on Making Ends Meet, Finding a Job, Applying for a Job and Getting the Job, these interactive sessions presented by volunteers from the business community help students get ready for work.

Training for volunteers and teachers who are interested in presenting the program as part of their regular classroom activities are being held throughout the county starting next Tuesday, February 1st.

“Polk Works is extending a special invitation to any businessperson who can commit to present the 4 one-hour sessions in the classroom at any of the Polk County High Schools, to attend training on one of these dates,” said Stephanie Campbell, Youth Programs Coordinator for Polk Works and lead trainer for SAW. “We are excited that the SAW program addresses so many of the questions we see in first time job seekers such as how much jobs pay and where and how to start looking when they are ready for their first job.”

Volunteer Instructor forms will be available at the training or from Merry Stewart of the Polk County School Board at [merry.stewart@polk-fl-net](mailto:merry.stewart@polk-fl-net) or (863) 534-7493. The schedule:

Feb. 1	Lake Region High School Auditorium	3:30-4:30pm
Feb. 10	Haines City High School Auditorium	3:00-4:00pm
Feb. 16	George Jenkins High School Auditorium	3:30-4:30pm
Feb. 22	Ft. Meade Middle-High School Media Center	3:00-4:00pm
Feb. 24	Kathleen High School	3:30-4:30pm

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continued**

To meet the need for updated job information for students who would be looking for their first jobs or making decisions about careers and the need for post-secondary education to make a livable wage, the School-to-Work Executive Council and the Polk County Workforce Development Board’s First Job First Wages Committee, in partnership with the Polk County School Board Career & Adult Education Dept., endorsed the SAW program.

The bright green covers on the program materials quickly catch the attention of young people and were the idea of MIDFLORIDA Federal Credit Union who, through a generous grant, sponsored the instructor’s handbooks, student workbooks and achievement certificates. The workbooks include the latest labor market information and living expenses for Polk County, to give the students a realistic picture and actual job ads and resumes from Polk County high school students. The lesson plans for the volunteer instructors make it easy to present the facts and add real life experiences and expertise to enhance the message to the students.

The SAW program meets the Dept of Education’s Curriculum Frameworks and Sunshine State Standards for Language Arts, with such activities as resume writing, identify resources in a job search, completing job applications, and what’s needed for a job interview.

Polk Works, the local workforce development board, has adopted as part of their mission to ensure a quality workforce for today and the future and their First Job First Wages Committee develops strategies to assist young people with job readiness or further education. The School-to-Work Executive Council oversees activities in the school system that enhance the transition from the classroom to further education or work.

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