



# WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WCF Receives \$192,000 to Connect At-Risk Youth To Work**

Orlando, FL ... WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA (WCF) received a \$192,000 grant from WFI, Inc. to work with seventy youth offenders in the areas of occupational skills, job seeking and job retention. Through partnerships with the Osceola County's Juvenile Court System, The School District of Osceola County, The Center for Drug Free Living, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and Henkels & McCoy, youth who are either currently incarcerated, or are referred by the court system will be identified for a unique program called "ConnectWork".

During WCF's approximately 16-week program, students learn vocational skills and are rewarded with their own work by building to keep computers. They also learn job search strategies, complete a resume, and will participate in mock interviews with local business volunteers. If the participant successfully completes the program, and is interested in continuing their education, Valencia Community College will offer a full scholarship. A vital component of the "ConnectWork" program is a peer and adult mentoring program.

The program will begin as early as Spring 2005 and is scheduled to run through June 2006. *"The goal of the 'ConnectWork' program is to effectively and efficiently get these most at-risk youth on a path of productivity, economic self-sufficiency and active citizenship. We believe this program, like so many of WCF's efforts, continues to give us the opportunity to make an important investment in our community"* states Atlee Mercer, WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA Board Chairman.

WORKFORCE CENTRAL FLORIDA (WCF) is the regions largest permanent placement agency, helping over 3,000 employers connect with 47,000 job seekers. WCF offers innovative solutions to assist Central Florida businesses succeed in today's highly competitive workforce, while providing the tools job seekers need to find or advance in their current career. WCF is the regions workforce expert. For more information, you can visit WCF online at [www.WorkforceCentralFlorida.com](http://www.WorkforceCentralFlorida.com).

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