



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2008

CONTACT: Adriane Glenn Grant, Workforce Florida, Inc., 850.921.1122
Gina Welker, Moore Consulting Group, Inc., 850.224.0174

**Statement by
Workforce Florida Inc. President/CEO Chris Hart
Regarding Governor's Signing of 2008-2009 State Budget**

“With support from Governor Charlie Crist, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp and the Legislature through the just-signed 2008-2009 budget, Florida’s workforce system has additional resources to meet employment and training demands not just during these tough economic times, but in support of high-skill, high-wage industries that are critical to our state economy now and in the future.

Highlights include:

- **\$7 million for Quick Response Training and Incumbent Worker Training.** Both of these grant programs, administered by Workforce Florida, reimburse Florida businesses for a portion of the costs of training for their employees and have demonstrated they contribute to wage increase opportunities for workers who acquire new skills.
- **\$1.5 million for Employ Florida Banner Centers.** These centers increase skilled talent in targeted sectors such as biotechnology, aviation/aerospace and energy. Through Banner Centers, industry helps to create new, cutting-edge training to keep Florida’s workforce and businesses competitive.
- **\$1.25 million for Florida’s aerospace workforce transition.** With the pending transition from the Space Shuttle to the Constellation program, Workforce Florida is working with Space Florida and the Brevard Workforce Development Board, among others, to develop and deploy strategies to help retain and retrain our aerospace talent and meet workforce demands generated by new economic development opportunities in this vital state industry.”

###

Workforce Florida, Inc., (WFI) is the state's chief workforce policy organization and principal architect in the efforts to meet the current and future workforce needs and challenges of Florida's businesses and citizens. WFI is a state partner, along with the Agency for Workforce Innovation, in the Employ Florida affiliate network of 24 business-led regional workforce boards and nearly 100 One-Stop Centers that provide employment solutions throughout Florida. Learn more about Florida's workforce resources and solutions at www.EmployFlorida.com.