

**Workforce Florida Inc.**  
**Chris Hart IV**  
President/CEO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Florida Workforce Organization Earns National Recognition**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for a Competitive Workforce today honored FloridaWorks, Florida’s regional workforce board for Alachua and Bradford counties, with a Region of Excellence Award.

The award, presented at the Institute’s Education and Workforce Summit in Washington, D.C., is given to the community that boasts the strongest partnerships between public and private entities with the common goal of economic well-being. This marks the first time an organization in Florida has received this annual award. The Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Council for Economic Outreach and North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce were also recognized as partners in a collaborative economic development effort.

The Gainesville-based organizations formed TEAM (Targeted Economic Achievement Machine) in 2005 to ensure the economic resilience of Gainesville’s businesses and workforce. The area has one of the lowest job loss and unemployment rates in the state even during the current recession. More than 200 new jobs have been generated in 2009 alone.

“The success of this partnership has benefited our businesses and residents alike through economic growth and job creation,” said Angela Pate, executive director of FloridaWorks and founder of TEAM. “We are committed to continuing to work with our partners to build a stable and prosperous future for Gainesville, and are honored to receive this recognition.”

Each of Florida’s 24 regional workforce boards, along with the workforce system’s state-level partners including Workforce Florida, collaborate directly with businesses, education and economic development to provide demand-driven solutions that support job creation and advance local economies.

“Florida’s workforce system thrives on responding to the needs of business to drive workforce and economic growth,” said Chris Hart IV, President/CEO of Workforce Florida, Inc. the state workforce investment board. “FloridaWorks’ achievement, as recognized by this U.S. Chamber of Commerce award, is a testament to our state’s role as

a workforce development innovator and leader. It also exemplifies our commitment to forging and strengthening partnerships to create and nurture world-class talent. We congratulate FloridaWorks on this honor.”

Award recipients are required to demonstrate the extensive impact their initiatives have made locally. To learn more about the award, visit

<http://www.uschamber.com/icw/tools/communityaward.htm#awards>.

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