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MEDIA CONTACT:

Marian Smith
Tel. 305.594.7615
Ext. 374

Facilitating Business Start-ups: South Florida Workforce Partners with FIU's Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center

(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL) – South Florida Workforce has partnered with Florida International University's Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center (Pino Center) to implement and administer a Virtual Entrepreneurship Incubation Network (VEIN), a program that promotes business start-ups through virtual mentoring and entrepreneurial training.

Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI) awarded South Florida Workforce \$64,506 in grant funds to spearhead VEIN. South Florida Workforce will match the \$64,506 award, resulting in \$129,012 to operate VEIN. South Florida Workforce Board has approved the funding award to FIU's Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center to fund VEIN. The VEIN program will serve 100 adult and dislocated workers in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

The Pino Center will offer program participants six distinct courses: "Developing a Killer Business Concept", "Creating Breakthrough Products", "Business Plans that Raise Money", "Going to Market in a Customer Centric, Social World", "How to Fund Your Company and Bring it to Life", and "FIU Pino Shark Tank". The final course, "Shark Tank", derived from the hit ABC television show of the same name.

The virtual mentoring component of the program matches program participants to successful longtime business owners who will coach them through the multiple stages involved in starting and running a business.

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