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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE RANKS #1

(MIAMI, February 8, 2012) – In an effort to assist in bolstering the region's economic recovery and growth, over 9,000 people were placed in jobs in the month of January through the assistance of South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), ranking the region #1 in the state.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Workforce Florida Inc. established a Monthly Job Placement Report in response to the Governor Rick Scott's call for enhanced measurement of performance outcomes in workforce development. The report highlights job placement achievements to allow regional workforce boards and other workforce system partners to identify and replicate best practices and strategies to better assist job seekers in gaining employment.

SFWIB is ranked No. 1 for the first time since the inception of the three month-old Monthly Job Placement Report, up from its No. 2 ranking in December 2011. The regional workforce boards are assigned a ranking of 1-24 based on their job-placement performance. Some of the factors in their ranking include; the number of job seekers who gain employment after being assisted by the Career Center or through the Employ Florida Marketplace job-matching website at EmployFlorida.com; the number of available job openings in their region based on EmployFlorida.com data; and the number of people receiving unemployment compensation benefits who find employment after receiving workforce services.

"We are committed to delivering high performance employment and training services to our region's citizens, while fostering economic prosperity. SFWIB established in-house customized performance-based measuring tools to determine the overall efficiency and effectiveness of how services are delivered. Through these innovative tools, we are able to evaluate how timely workforce professionals in the Career Centers match qualified job candidates with businesses seeking to hire, and determine the level of consistency of how job seekers utilize the services available to them at no-cost, said, Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

SFWIB's tools have afforded the agency to raise the quality of customer service and increase opportunities to help employers find qualified job candidates with the skills and experience they are looking for in a successful hire.

About South Florida Workforce Investment Board

South Florida Workforce Investment Board is a public-private partnership and integral partner in Miami-Dade's economic plan that initiates state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of Career Centers located throughout the Region.

For more information on the SFWIB's performance measures, contact SFWIB at 305-594-7615 or visit <http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce-board-resources/program-monitoring-and-reports/monthly-regional-workforce-board-job-placement-reports> ###

*South Florida Workforce is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*