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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“TRAINING YOUTH FOR CAREERS IN STEM”

(MIAMI, January 27, 2012) – Long-term strategies to increase a STEM-ready (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) workforce is essential in the overall competitiveness and growth of the local economy. The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) was one of only four regional workforce boards in the state awarded \$157,000 to implement Youth STEM Training and Employment program.

In partnering with Miami-Dade College, a cohort of 40 eligible young adults will have the opportunity to fully engage in a STEM-related field of study and workforce activities through a Biotechnology College Credit Certificate (CCC) program. Participants who successfully complete the program have the option to enroll in the Biotechnology Associates in Science program. SFWIB will cover all training cost through grants, Individual Training Account (ITA), a voucher provided to job seekers who need occupational skills training to become gainfully employed or re-employed, and matching funds.

“Our overall economic competitiveness in this region is contingent upon our young people becoming self-sufficient for stem-related occupations, which are forecasted to grow about 70 percent faster than employment in other occupations. SFWIB takes great pride in preparing an adequate supply of qualified future workers for employment in STEM fields,” said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

SFWIB has partnered with several employers including the University Of Miami, Miller School of Medicine to facilitate hiring participants for STEM-related internships or job shadowing. Upon successful completion of the program, participants are qualified to gain entry-level positions as research assistants, lab technicians, quality control technicians, assay analyst, chemical technician, biological technician and microbiologists.

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 Youth STEM Training and Employment program, please contact SFWIB’s Youth Services Division at 305-594-7615, ext. 292.

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