

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



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Governor Taps Youth and Local Government Leaders to Help Shape Workforce Strategies**

TALLAHASSEE—Governor Rick Scott’s three newest appointments to Workforce Florida Inc.’s Board of Directors will lend their expertise on youth issues, local government and community leadership to statewide efforts to develop a globally competitive workforce.

“We are excited to have these strong leaders appointed to our Board,” said Chairman Dwayne E. Ingram. “Their perspective and experience will aid this Board’s efforts to develop a work-ready, skilled workforce to respond to today’s talent needs as well as tomorrow’s.”

Newly appointed to the statewide workforce investment board are:

- Brittany O. Birken, 36, of Tallahassee, chief executive officer of Florida Children’s Services Council. She succeeds Samuel Streit and is appointed for a term beginning October 21, 2011, and ending March 21, 2014.
- William “Bill” Williams, 45, of Port St. Joe, county commissioner for Gulf County. He succeeds Mark S. Sharpe and is appointed for a term beginning October 21, 2011, and ending March 21, 2014.
- Maria D. Rodriguez, 55, of Miami Lakes, president of Youth Co-Op Inc. A previous Workforce Florida Board member, she is appointed for a term beginning October 21, 2011, and ending July 6, 2014. Her previous term began March 23, 2005, and ended July 14, 2008.

“Each of these leaders is committed to creating new economic opportunities for Florida families and businesses and we welcome their support of our collaborative efforts to help Floridians get back to work,” said Chris Hart IV, President/CEO Workforce Florida Inc.

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**About Workforce Florida**

Workforce Florida Inc. is the statewide workforce investment board led by business and government leaders and charged with policy setting for Florida’s workforce system, which includes the Department of Economic Opportunity and 24 Regional Workforce Boards. Its mission is to develop strategies that help Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workforce while supporting economic development priorities and strengthening the state’s business climate. Learn more about Florida’s workforce resources and solutions at [www.EmployFlorida.com](http://www.EmployFlorida.com).

Workforce Florida is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The voice telephone number in this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.