

Florida Economic Development Council
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**Florida Economic Development Council Awards Outstanding
Workforce and Economic Development Professionals**

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) recently awarded two deserving individuals with its most prestigious accolades: the Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional of the Year Award and the Toni Jennings Workforce Development Professional of the Year Award.

The FEDC named Mary Jane “MJ” Stanley, CEcD, President/CEO of the Pasco Economic Development Council (PEDC), the 2008 Economic Development Professional of the Year. Stanley has spent more than eight years working with the PEDC to provide a wide array of assistance to existing and new Pasco County businesses. She has more than 25 years of combined private- and public-sector experience.

Mary Lou Reed, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, received the 2008 Workforce Development Professional of the Year Award. Since 1996, Reed has worked to highlight the crucial role partnerships play in unifying education and workforce development with economic development. She also has been a private-sector-business advocate, and has championed the link between economic development and workforce development.

“These prestigious awards give FEDC the opportunity to recognize outstanding leaders in economic development throughout Florida,” said Amy Evancho, FEDC President and CEO. “They also showcase the very best in marketing and communications best practices as to why Florida should continue to be an expansion or relocation of choice for business.”

The awards were presented at the Council’s annual conference held May 18-20 in Tampa. The FEDC also conferred 20 additional awards: four for business achievements, seven for advertising & promotional success and nine for outstanding volunteer efforts.

The Excellence in International Business Award was granted to the Broward Alliance, The Beacon Council, and the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County’s Regional Collaboration for Business Development in Canada. The Deal of the Year Award went to the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County’s Max Planck Society.

The FEDC’s Stellar Awards were given by category. Promotional Award winners were: Cape Coral Economic Development Council (Single Ad); and Progress Energy (Ad Campaign). Advertising winners were: The Beacon Council (Internal Publication); Pinellas County Economic Development (External Publication); and the Economic Development Council of Collier County (Retention Publication). E-Media winners include: The Economic Development Council of Collier County (Electronic Media Communication); and Cape Coral Economic Development Council (Web site).

FEDC Volunteers of the Year were: Dr. David Goetsch, Vice President of Okaloosa Walton College (District 1); John Rimes, President, Worthington Springs City Commission (District 2); Marc Spalding, Manager of Commercial Division, Caldwell Banker (District 3); Dr. Steven Wallace, President, Florida Community College at Jacksonville (District 4); Ed Blommel, Regional Manager, Tampa Electric Company (District 5); C.T. Hsu, President, C.T. Hsu Associates (District 6); Richard Grant, President of Grant, Fridkin, Pearson, Athan & Crown, P.A (District 7); Tom Wheatley,

Vice President Business Development, Flagler Bank (District 8); and George Rahael, CEO and Founder, Amera Corporation (District 9).

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About the Florida Economic Development Council

Celebrating 44 years of economic development leadership, advocacy and training and development, the FEDC is comprised of more than 450 professionals who are doing the work of economic development in both public and private sectors throughout Florida and beyond. Its mission is to advance economic development in Florida and to enhance the professionalism of its members through education, interaction, and the exchange of information with business, government, and all other appropriate organizations.