

Workforce Florida, Inc.

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State Workforce Board Chairman appoints Workforce Florida Council/Committee leadership.

TALLAHASSEE - Tramm Hudson, Chairman of the Workforce Florida Board of Directors, last week made the following appointments for leadership of the five WFI standing councils/committees:

Gerald R. "Jerry" Agresti - Chairman of the High Skills/High Wages Council. Workforce Florida's High Skills/High Wages Council focuses on partnering with economic development to reshape the Florida economy and maintain competitiveness in designated industries. "Jerry understands the link between workforce development and economic development," said Hudson. "That's the kind of leadership we need for the High Skills/High Wages Council. As a Workforce Florida Board member and council chair, he will have influence over workforce policy that directly impacts his community." Mr. Agresti of Green Cove Springs is currently President of Developers Realty Group and a member of the First Coast Regional Workforce Board. He is a former member of the U.S. Navy and serves on the Clay County Development Authority and the Clay Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mary Lou Brunell - Chairwoman of the One-Stop Committee. Workforce Florida's One-Stop Committee focuses on continuous quality improvement of Florida's workforce system through one-stop minimum standards and credentialing. The committee also has oversight over the state Workforce Excellence Awards and the Employ Florida affiliate branding program. "Quality and excellence are critical to the success of our system - just as in the health care system. Mary Lou's leadership in the nursing field will be a great asset to the One-Stop Committee," said Hudson. "Her community and the state will benefit from her role in shaping Florida's workforce policies." Ms. Brunell of

Apopka is currently the Executive Director of the Florida Center for Nursing. She is a member of the Florida Nurses Association, Florida Organization of Nurse Executives and past chair of the Florida Center for Nursing Board.

Belinda M. Keiser - Chairwoman of the Better Jobs/Better Wages Council. Workforce Florida's Better Jobs/Better Wages Council focuses on transitioning Floridians from welfare to work and on increasing the earnings of the working poor. "You couldn't find another individual better suited to lead the Better Jobs/Better Wages Council than Belinda Keiser," said Hudson. "Belinda knows the value of training and education in moving people towards a better quality of life. Her leadership on the Workforce Florida Board will have influence on the workforce policies that directly impact her community." Ms. Keiser of Fort Lauderdale is currently Vice Chancellor of Community Development, Keiser College of Ft Lauderdale. She is also a member of Broward County Regional Workforce Board, Leadership Broward Foundation and the Florida Bar Citizens Forum.

Craig B. Palmer - Chairman of the First Jobs/First Wages Council. Workforce Florida's First Jobs/First Wages Council focuses on the preparation and transition of youth at risk of not finishing school to self-sufficient employment. "Craig Palmer is a natural leader," said Hudson. "His leadership of the First Jobs/First Wages Council will contribute to workforce policy that directly impacts youth in his community and the state of Florida." Mr. Palmer of Niceville is currently Director of Business Development, Alpha Data Corporation. He is a former member of the U.S. Air Force.

Eric W. Robinson - Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Workforce Florida Finance Committee focuses on the use of funds in the Workforce Florida Budget and in the state workforce system-including the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Regional Boards. "Eric Robinson brings solid experience in financial management to the Workforce Florida Finance Committee," said Hudson. "We are fortunate to have his level of expertise and commitment." Mr. Robinson of Venice is currently owner of Eric Robinson, CPA. He is a member of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, a former member of the U.S. Naval Reserves, former owner of Senior Networks and former board member of Children's Home Society of Florida.

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