

## Follow South Florida Workforce



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### CREATING NEW CAREER PATHWAYS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

**(MIAMI, February 14, 2013)** – Connecting youth with opportunities for success is the focus of a newly launched Youth Reentry Initiative. A partnership made possible by the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, Eleventh Circuit Juvenile Division, and Eleventh Circuit of the Juvenile Justice Department (DJJ), Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Our Kids, Inc.

This partnership provides a platform for all parties to address the challenges and needs of the juvenile population and continue to build on a shared vision of the Reentry Initiative. The Youth Reentry Initiative aims to increase the success rates of youth transitioning back into their local communities. The Initiative encompasses the launch of the new SFWIB's Youth Mobile Workforce Assistance Center donated by the Heartland Workforce.

"We are pleased to provide the South Florida Workforce Investment Board with the opportunity to expand their youth outreach programs to the communities they serve through the donation of our mobile one-stop unit. I have no doubt that they will continue to do great things," said Roger Hood, President/CEO – Heartland

This state-of-the-art, fully handicapped-accessible unit with 13 computer workstations with satellite offers GED preparation, tutoring, post-secondary counseling, pre-employment screening; job searching assistance, resumes and interview preparation, career planning, drop-out recovery services and more.

"At South Florida Workforce, we want to ensure that our youth have a successful reentry into the communities and schools by assisting in developing the core skills needed to reach their educational and career goals," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

In addition, the Youth Reentry Initiative will enhance current partnerships and coordination of services between the agencies. The initiative will create a policy shift in the juvenile court system and make necessary system changes. Through combined interventions, the partnerships will facilitate the successful reentry of the young offenders into their communities and reduce youth recidivism. As an incentive, the juvenile records of participating youth may possibly be sealed by the juvenile court system upon successfully completion of all program requirements.

#### **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.

Learn more about the Youth Reentry Initiative by contacting Youth Services Division at 305 594-7615 ext. 292.

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