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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

\$35,000 AWARDED TO THE FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM IN KEY WEST

(MONROE, October 20, 2011) — High school juniors and seniors from Key West High School aspiring to become firefighters will have an opportunity to participate in the Fire Academy Training Program in Key West funded by the South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB).

The Key West Fire Department in conjunction with the Key West High School developed a Fire Academy Program to prepare students in becoming certified as a Fire Fighter One Level in the Florida State Fire College System.

Upon graduation, the students will continue to acquire the appropriate credentials to becoming firefighters. The \$35,000 awarded by SFWIB will go towards the expense of equipment, physical examinations, drug screening, orientation, CPR, EMT testing, and more.

“We are excited about maintaining a pipeline that channels young people into rewarding careers in public safety. By supporting this unique endeavor, we are ensuring that students receive adequate training, earn a high school diploma, and become employable,” said Rick Beasley, executive director for the South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Graduates from the Fire Academy will be considered first in hiring. Currently, the program has successfully produced three trainees, who are now active employees at the Key West Fire Department.

Learn more about the Fire Academy Training Program in Key West by contacting SFWIB’s Youth Services at 305-594-7615 Ext. 292 or by visiting www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership that establishes 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.

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