

# SOLUTIONS

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2011

VOLUME IV

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The South Florida Workforce has been vital in meeting the needs of the unemployed and the workforce needs of businesses in our region. Since 2007, the Career Centers and provider agencies have served 388,188 people, 64% of the individuals trained were placed in positions, and 131,416 people were directly placed in employment.

Thus, we are excited to unveil a new initiative the "Campaign of Opportunity" to help boost more job creation, retrain workers for new economic opportunities, and help businesses stay competitive by meeting their workforce needs.

The "Campaign of Opportunity" hopes to bring focus on ways of reshaping the region's economic recovery through establishing the

following measures aimed at sustaining economic growth:

- Form a blue-ribbon committee of community leaders to develop strategic solutions for job creation;
- Implement the Platform to Employment-employment program that reimburses businesses for the wages they pay while training new full-time employees.
- Support the creation of a statewide Florida Business and Workforce Competitiveness Fund, which will provide Florida Businesses with incentives to create new jobs and hire unemployed Florida workers.

We enlist the support from the community and our peers for their leadership in helping us to accomplish this endeavor. Once again, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to serving you.

Rick Beasley  
Executive Director

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

YOUTH TAUGHT THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

COMMUNITY GETS UPDATE ON WORKFORCE SERVICES PLAN

\$400,000 AWARDED TO THE LIFE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

EXPANDING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

IMPORTANT CHANGES YOU NEED TO KNOW

## YOUTH TAUGHT THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



*In this photo: Charting Your Career Course, Thursday, August 11, 2011, Miami Dade College – North Campus*

Over 100 young people ages 15-21 got to learn firsthand how exciting a career in aviation can be while attending the South Florida Workforce's Charting Your Career Course Youth Expo. This day long of free workshops hosted at the North Campus of Miami Dade College was aimed to provide Miami-Dade's future workforce with career path information and resources to help broaden their career options.

The career expo was lead by a team of career training experts. The topics of these workshops included creating a successful resume, developing effective interview techniques, and acquiring job searching tips. At midday, Captain Barrington Irving, who at the age of 23, became the youngest and first African-American to fly a solo flight around the world, spoke about daring to be different. "When you dare to be different, everything flows. The "right people" notice you -- and want to work with you. Opportunities present themselves. Doors swing open, and the struggle eventually becomes less of an issue, said Irving. Captain Irving is the founder of Experience Aviation and his appearance was sponsored by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America.

Stan Yokoi, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America's General Manager for Aircraft Product Support, expressed enthusiasm earlier in the presentation. "MHIA recognizes the benefit and need of attracting students to careers in STEM-related fields. He also informed young people that America badly needs new pilots, grounds crews, engineers, teachers, technicians, air traffic controllers and workers for literally all aviation disciplines.

This enlightening day of workshops could not have taken place without the valuable support from Miami-Dade College, Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Department of Juvenile Justice, Miami-Dade Economic Trust and Big Brother Big Sisters of Greater Miami.

## COMMUNITY GETS UPDATE ON WORKFORCE SERVICES PLAN

The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) unveils its modified Local Workforce Services Plan to the community. The plan outlines SFWIB's business and job seeker programs and reflects organizational and strategic adjustments responsive to changes in the local economy.

Each local board in partnership with the chief elected officials is required to develop and submit a comprehensive one year local plan to the governor. This plan identifies and describes certain policies, procedures and activities that are carried out in the local area consistent with the State's Workforce Investment Plan.

"South Florida's long-term economic viability will depend heavily on being able to compete successfully in the global economy. Thus, our local plan provides a blue print of services, programs and policies aimed at fostering job creation and business expansion," said Rick Beasley, executive director for the South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The community forums are being held throughout the region to solicit feedback from the public including workforce partners. Comments will be included in the submitted plan. The forums are free and open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Miami-Dade County policies, the forum locations are handicap accessible. To request sign language, interpreters, assistive listening devices or materials in an accessible format, please contact SFWIB at 305-594-7615 ext. 274, at least five days in advance.

For a listing of dates and times of the Community Forums, visit:

[WWW.SOUTHFLORIDAWORKFORCE.COM](http://WWW.SOUTHFLORIDAWORKFORCE.COM)





## \$400,000 AWARDED TO THE LIFE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

Located in the heart of Miami's Health District, plans for a life sciences and technology park will accommodate biotech and life science-related companies and institutes, from start-ups to established entities.

Thanks to the partnership with the University of Miami, Miami Dade College, and South Florida Workforce Investment Board, this incubator of learning will help foster technical careers in the life sciences among residents in economically distressed communities.

SFWIB awarded \$400,000 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) training dollars to ensure the region has the talent to meet the needs of the growing Life Sciences sector, which is critical to the growth of the economy.

SFWIB recognizes that the availability of a skilled workforce attracts businesses to the region. Through awarding \$400,000 towards the Life Science and Technology Park, we are essentially ensuring that a skilled workforce is available to meet industry requirements for the Life Science sector of our economy, "said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Through this unique partnership with the University of Miami and Miami Dade College, participants who successfully complete the program are guaranteed a placement in a job. This joint initiative provides an excellent example of how SFWIB is working with employers to help sustain economic growth in our region.



## EXPANDING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

The high cost of having a computer, or a phone line to actually connect to the Internet remains a hot topic in today's economy. Computers and electronic technology are becoming advanced and expensive for poor families to understand or afford. Studies have suggested that the lower a household's income, the more likely a household cites "cost" as the reason for not having Internet access.

In fact, a disproportionate number of low-income families in the region have limited access and use to personal computers. The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) is helping to reduce the gap in the region and allocated close to \$48,000 towards its Digital Divide Initiative.

The job seekers who participated in the Digital Divide Initiative received extensive computer training, and upon their successful completion, received refurbished computers and one-year of internet access from AT&T. All were paid through the initiative. A total of 605 computers were provided during phases I and II of the Digital Divide Initiative.

Linking job seekers to technology is a part of SFWIB's strategic efforts. "SFWIB recognizes the enormous social and economic benefits of job seekers having computers in their household. These job seekers will now have access to employment and educational opportunities that could potentially change their lives for the better," said Executive Director Rick Beasley of South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Through the Digital Divide Initiative, SFWIB is creating avenues by which job seekers can gain the tools necessary to learn computers and internet skills and apply it back to local industries.

# IMPORTANT CHANGES YOU NEED TO KNOW

Important changes you need to know about the Florida's Unemployment Compensation program that has taken effect since August 1, 2011.

**Internet Filing and Certification of Weeks** – Initial and continued claims must be filed over the internet.

**Work Search** – Claimants are required to contact at least five potential employers per week and provide this information over the internet during their bi-weekly certification for benefits. A quick, efficient way to contact employers is by using the Employ Florida Marketplace at [employflorida.com](http://employflorida.com), the state's online job matching system where you can search thousands of job postings and apply for jobs.

If a claimant is not able to make at least five employer contacts in a week, meeting with a representative at one of the local Career Centers for reemployment services will satisfy this requirement for that week.

**Skills Review** – In order to receive benefits, claimants filing new claims must complete an initial skills review over the Internet. The results of the review will be used by a local Career Center to assist claimants with job searches.

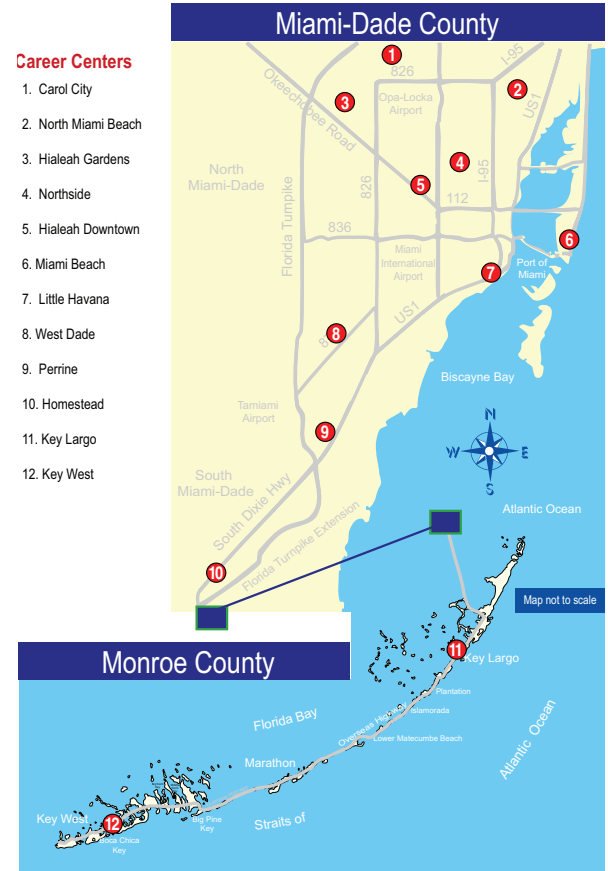
**Severance Pay** – If a claimant's severance pay per week is equal to or greater than the claimant's weekly benefit amount, the claimant is not entitled to benefits for that week. Severance pay does not impact the total amount of benefits that can be paid on the claim.

To access Internet services, claimants may visit:

1. public libraries
2. community centers
3. senior centers
4. Florida's One-Stop Career Centers - for a list of locations, please visit: [www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com)

For more information, the Agency for Workforce Innovation's unemployment compensation hotline will be available to answer any questions about the filing process 1(800) 204-2418.

# WHERE TO FIND US



## SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

The South Florida Workforce delivery system provides high quality, customized employment and training solutions to workers and employers in support of economic development in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.

South Florida Workforce  
7300 Corporate Center Drive  
Suite 500  
Miami, FL 33126-1234

Phone: 305.594.7615  
Fax: 305.593.5632  
TTY: 305.470.5529

## Stay Connected



[www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com)

SOLUTIONS  
Editor Olivia Almagro  
Graphic/Webmaster Maria Bencomo

Solutions is a free, monthly email publication for community partners. Some programs are based on eligibility, funding and availability. Contact your local Career Center for more information. South Florida Workforce is an equal opportunity employer / program. Auxiliary aids & services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.