

# SOLUTIONS

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VOLUME VI

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Our dedication to building this region into a world-class economy is evident in the time, energy and resources that we strategically invest. In the past year, we enhanced our performance measuring tools for all of our workforce services. South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) is operating with more efficiency and greater accountability than ever before. We established in-house customized performance-based measuring tools to maximize the overall efficiency and effectiveness of how services are delivered.

These tools have enhanced the quality of customer service and increased opportunities to help businesses find qualified job candidates with the skills and experience they are looking for in a successful hire. This has resulted in measurable improvements that have allowed us to leverage our resources and develop a highly responsive and effective workforce system.

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While I am proud of the milestones we have achieved, there is still more work ahead of us. For 2012 and beyond, all of our hard work and dedication will not slow down. We are energized by our achievements from this past year and excited for the future. SFWIB will continue to press forward with a set of common priorities that we believe will improve services for job seekers and employers in our region in ways that promote our economic well-being.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and interest in South Florida Workforce Investment Board. Together, we can build a stronger and more viable workforce

Rick Beasley  
Executive Director  
South Florida Workforce



Summer is fast approaching us and the break is a perfect opportunity for college students to get their feet wet in becoming gainfully employed. Young adults throughout the region will have an opportunity to earn a summer income, while learning the inner workings of a business.

South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) kicks-off the Career Pathway Compact Summer Employment Program, an initiative with Miami-Dade Education Partnership, aimed to provide young adults between the ages of 18-24 from low-income families the opportunity to earn a summer income and enhance their work-readiness skills.

A collaborative effort with Miami-Dade County, SFWIB, made \$1.5 million dollars available for this worthy initiative. This eight to ten week education internship program will provide young adults with entry-level positions within governmental agencies, local businesses and community-based organizations. The selection process will be done by lottery for candidates who meet program eligibility requirements.

"We appreciate the support from the County and Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez," said Rick Beasley, executive director of South Florida Workforce Investment Board. "This program will provide college-age students from our economically-challenged communities with an invaluable opportunity to participate in paid internships with local business this summer, and in the process become better equipped for future job opportunities," he added.

Businesses interested in hiring a young adult can also benefit from this opportunity. "The value of hiring young adults, particularly in a challenging economic environment, merits the investment because it provides employers an opportunity to not only assist young adults with gaining valuable work experience and new skills, but it also helps to promote and stimulate economic development," said Rick Beasley. "The money earned by the young adults goes directly back into our local economy, virtually, dollar for dollar," he further added.

Learn more about the Career Pathway Compact Summer Employment Program by contacting Youth Services.

## SFWIB AWARDED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

The Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce honored the Non-Profit Organization of the year award to South Florida Workforce Investment Board at their Annual Business Leaders Luncheon. SFWIB was recognized for outstanding work in establishing workforce development initiatives aimed to improve South Florida's quality of life and strengthen the economy.

The Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Leaders Luncheon recognizes businesses and individuals who have played a significant role in making Miami-Dade a better place to live and work.

"It is a privilege and honor to accept this coveted award on behalf of South Florida Workforce. We are committed to strengthening the talent supply chain in our region and providing businesses valuable resources to secure a sustainable and vibrant economic future," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Founded in 1974, Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce creates business opportunities for minority companies throughout the region by providing advocacy, networking opportunities, resources and entrepreneurial training to businesses in South Florida.

The Chamber also recognized Chamber members for their business acumen and accomplishments. Special recognition was also awarded to Corporate Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Community Service Award and Board Member of the Year.

## SFWIB RECEIVES PRAISES FROM U.S. SECRETARY OF LABOR



In this photo, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, second from right, recently met with Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus President Madeline Pumariega, South Florida Workforce Executive Director Rick Beasley and University of Miami Miller Medical School Senior Associate Dean Dr. Norma S. Kenyon.

Photo Courtesy of Miami Dade College

On her recent visit, accolades were given from U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), Miami Dade College and University of Miami for its collaborative efforts on job creation at the new University of Miami Life Science and Technology Park.

These three institutions teamed up to help foster life science careers-training and bolster employment opportunities for Overtown and other neighboring communities of the facility.

The partnership was made possible by a \$400,000 grant from SFWIB that was designed to ensure the community has sufficient talent for the growing life sciences sector. This initiative will identify adults and high school students from the surrounding areas who share interest in health care or bioscience careers. The center will help provide access to existing programs and offer academic and career advice as well as job training.

Students will be able to choose from studies in occupations ranging from health science to biotechnology that could lead to degrees in biological sciences. 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 educational institutions and employers to help sustain economic growth in our region.

The state-of-the-art park, which was officially dedicated September of 2011 and is nestled in the region's most important hospitals, medical facilities and MDC's Medical Campus, has the potential to make Miami a bioscience hub. Learn more about the University Of Miami Life Science Park by contacting SFWIB at 305-594-7615.

## GETTING VETERANS BACK TO WORK

As we welcome more of our troops home from overseas deployments, South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) is providing servicemen and women from all branches of the military help with re-entering the workforce.

We recognize the difficulty they may have finding employment when they return home from active duty. SFWIB staff is prepared to help our veterans use their skills to become gainfully employed and assist employers with finding qualified personnel to meet their workforce demands.

The services offered to veterans at no cost are job placement, being connected with employers, access to labor market information and more.

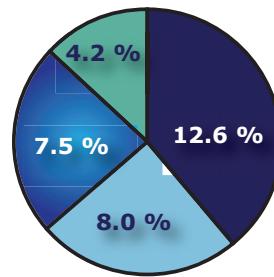
### Helpful resources:

#### Toll-free Number and Website

- [www.southfloridaworkforce.com](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com)
- <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/>
- 1-866-FLA-2345
- For assistance with employment contact local veteran's reps at the career centers.

## DID YOU KNOW?

What impact does education have on unemployment rates?



- Less than a high school diploma
- High school graduates, no college
- Some college or associate degree
- Bachelor's degree and higher

Source: Department of Economic Opportunity

# TRAINING YOUTH FOR CAREERS IN STEM

The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) was one of only four regional workforce boards in the state awarded \$157,000 to implement Youth STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Training and Employment program.

SFWIB partnered with Miami Dade College affording a cohort of 40 eligible young adults to fully engage in a STEM-related

field of study and workforce activities through a Biotechnology College Credit Certificate (CCC) program. Participants who successfully complete the program have the option to enroll in the Biotechnology Associates in Science program.

SFWIB will cover all training cost through grants, Individual Training Account (ITA), a voucher provided to job seekers who need occupational skills training to become gainfully employed or re-employed, and matching funds.

The overall economic competitiveness in this region is contingent upon young people becoming self-sufficient for stem-related occupations, which are forecasted to grow about 70 percent faster than employment in other occupations. SFWIB takes great pride in preparing an adequate supply of qualified future workers for employment in STEM fields.

SFWIB has partnered with several employers including the University Of Miami, Miller School of Medicine to facilitate hiring participants for STEM-related internships or job shadowing. Upon successful completion of the program, participants are qualified to gain entry-level positions as research assistants, lab technicians, quality control technicians, assay analyst, chemical technician, biological technician and microbiologists.



*Field Tour of the Tissue Bank located at the UM Life Science & Technology Park*

## 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.

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### Stay Connected



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

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