

Contact: Alyssa Brown, Communications Coordinator, Workforce Florida Inc., 850.414.8301

**Statement from Workforce Florida Board Chairman Dwayne Ingram
regarding Governor Rick Scott's 2012 Job Creation and Economic Growth Agenda**

TALLAHASSEE, October 12, 2011—Today, Governor Rick Scott unveiled a robust agenda for advancing Florida's efforts to become the nation's job creation leader and strengthening our collaborative efforts to help unemployed Floridians get back to work.

The announcement was made at Metal Essence Inc., a Longwood manufacturing business owned by Al Stimac, a member of the business-led Workforce Florida Board of Directors and Chair of the Global Talent Competitiveness Council.

Workforce Florida is committed to working with Governor Scott, the Legislature and our collaborative partners in business and industry, workforce, education and economic development to create new economic opportunities for Floridians and businesses. A workforce with 21st century skills is essential to economic growth.

To that end, Workforce Florida fully supports the Governor's efforts to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency within the workforce system. Many regional workforce board leaders throughout Florida are equally dedicated to this goal.

Ensuring the resources entrusted to workforce boards are expended in compliance with federal and state law and in a manner that protects the public trust and, most importantly, focuses on helping people get jobs is our top priority.

Workforce Florida's Board of Directors is laser-focused on supporting economic growth through strategies and initiatives that develop the qualified talent needed by industries targeted to diversify our state economy. At Workforce Florida, for example, we are investing in growing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) academies in Florida high schools and helping education link to the real-time needs of Florida businesses for STEM talent through *STEMflorida*; connecting directly with chief executives in sectors such as aviation/aerospace, clean technology and life sciences, among others, to better understand and respond to their businesses' talent needs; and developing a Talent Supply Chain Team for Florida aimed at better assessing and leveraging the resources of *all* the state's talent development entities—both public and private—from PreK to 20 through lifelong learning.

We are excited about our state's future and prepared to help lead the way in delivering the skilled talent and new economic opportunities needed to make Florida a global leader.

To find out more about workforce resources and tools available to Floridians and businesses, visit WorkforceFlorida.com.

###

**Statement from Al Stimac, owner of Metal Essence Inc. and a Workforce Florida Board Member,
regarding Governor Rick Scott's 2012 Job Creation and Economic Growth Agenda**

LONGWOOD, Fla., October 12, 2011—Governor Rick Scott is doing everything possible to create the best business climate in the nation in Florida. The Governor's priorities for cutting-edge training, workforce development and building STEM-related competencies as a component of a strong business climate are essential to all Florida industries, especially manufacturing.

As a member of the Workforce Florida Board of Directors and Chairman of the Global Talent Competitiveness Council, I share the Governor's commitment to ensure we have the best talent development system to meet business demands.

###