



Work In Progress

Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc.

APRIL 17, 2010

This news bulletin is designed to keep you informed of recent developments in Pasco County Florida, a community of more than 470,000 people in the Tampa Bay Region.

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NEW WORKFORCE TOOLS WILL ENHANCE CUSTOMER SERVICE TO BETTER SERVE JOB SEEKERS AND BUSINESSES

Workforce Florida Inc. and the Agency for Workforce Innovation have worked together to design three new tools for workforce professionals to better serve job seekers and businesses:

- Help Wanted OnLine
- Transferable Occupation Relationship Quotient (TORQ)
- In-Context LMI (Labor Market Information).

With Pasco County’s unemployment rate currently at 14% (March 2010), Help Wanted OnLine will allow jobseekers to search a real-time listing of positions that are posted throughout the state. The database is updated every three hours with a summary of the local hiring landscape.

TORQ will allow job seekers to determine career opportunities based on their current abilities, skills and knowledge. This tool will be used to assist statewide workforce boards and one-stop career centers to reemploy workers with transferrable skills into new jobs that require little or no additional training.

“In-Context LMI is a tool that will be most helpful for us at Pasco Economic Development Council (PEDC) when working with existing and relocating businesses to identify the makeup of our community’s labor force and meet businesses needs.” said John Hagen, President/CEO of PEDC.

“We are very excited to have these new tools at our disposal. We have already started using Help Wanted On Line and referring our customers to EmployFlorida.com’s In-Context LMI,” said Jerome Salatino, President/CEO of Pasco Hernando Workforce Board. “These tools along with the new TORQ not only provide real time data but relevant information that we have had difficulty previously accessing.”

He added, “I feel that these tools will greatly enhance our reaction time and provide sound planning data, which will help us be more strategic in our approach to meet the economic needs of the community.”

These tools have already been deployed throughout the state’s 24 Regional Workforce Boards and 93 One-Stop Career Centers. For more information, please contact Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board, Inc. at (352)593-2222 or visit Career Central’s website at www.careercentral.jobs.

Source: Workforce Florida, Inc News Release March 5, 2010

TAX BENEFITS AVAILABLE FOR HIRING AND RETAINING THE UNEMPLOYED

Employers in Pasco County who plan to hire previously unemployed or part-time workers this year may qualify for a 6.2 percent payroll tax incentive, plus a \$1,000 business tax credit.

These two new tax benefits are part of The Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (HIRE) signed into law on March 18, 2010 to encourage employers to hire and retain new workers. This tax break exempts employers from their share of Social Security taxes on wages paid to workers after the date of enactment. Employers must hire unemployed workers this year (after February 3, 2010 and before January 1, 2011) who have been out of a job for 60 days.

The second incentive, allows businesses and nonprofit organizations to claim an additional general business tax credit, up to \$1,000 per new worker retained for at least a year, when they file 2011 income tax returns.

“We want to make sure that every business is aware of these credits,” said John Hagen, President/CEO of Pasco Economic Development Council. “Anything we can do right now to encourage companies to hire employees will help decrease the current unemployment rate, which continues to be much too high in the Tampa Bay Region.”

For more information about tax incentives, please visit:

<http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=220745,00.html>

Source: Internal Revenue Service News Release March 18, 2010 and www.irs.gov

PASCO COUNTY RECEIVES THREE AWARDS FROM TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners was recognized with three awards at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council's 18th Annual Future of the Region Awards Ceremony in Tampa.

Pasco County received a first place award for its Lean, Efficient, Accountable Pasco (LEAP) Into Excellence and Strategic Planning Initiative, a county-wide effort that began in the fall of 2007. The initiative has resulted in improved services to citizens, millions of savings in tax dollars and a new, three-year strategic plan which will serve as the county's road map to the future. The LEAP initiative included a broad community outreach effort to include every county department and hundreds of citizens by community stakeholder meetings, surveying citizens, multiple articles and guest columns in local press and employee newsletters, as well as a new website created to keep citizens informed during the process.

The county also was recognized for two Honorable Mention Awards for the Mike Fasano Regional Hurricane Shelter, and the Upper Cotee River Preserve. The Mike Fasano Regional Hurricane Shelter in Hudson opened in December 2009 and was a joint effort of the state of Florida and Pasco County. The 37,000-square-foot shelter is the first in the country designed using the latest standards for hurricane resistance, meaning it can withstand winds of up to 190 mph and debris moving at up to 90 mph. The building is also the first in the county designed to meet standards set by the U.S. Green Building Coalition's LEED Program (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

The county was recognized for its effort to preserve more than 122 acres of pristine wilderness along the Upper Pithlachascotee River near S.R. 52 in Shady Hills. The project is the first in Pasco to be funded using proceeds from the Penny for Pasco sales tax and eventually will be accessible to the public through a series of nature trails and boardwalks still being constructed. The site is already home to a nature center, which dozens of staff and volunteers have spent months renovating and improving for public use. With dozens of species of birds and wildlife, including deer, wild turkey, gopher tortoises, barred owl and red-shouldered hawk, the Upper Cotee River Preserve is environmentally significant but it also has a unique piece of Pasco history as well. The preserve is home to an enormous cypress tree estimated to be between 200 and 300 years old and listed in The Historic Places of Pasco County.

Pasco County Commissioner Ann Hildebrand also was recognized as part of the TBARTA Board of Directors, which received an award for its recently-adopted Master Plan.

The Pasco Economic Development Council congratulates the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners and staff for their hard work and award winning efforts to help make Pasco County the “Community of Choice” for Tampa Bay citizens, visitors, and businesses.

The Future of the Region Awards program provides recognition for notable achievement in the public and private sectors for resource planning and management in the Tampa Bay region. Other categories include Cultural/Sports Recreation, Development, and Infrastructure. Pasco County was recognized in three of five possible categories. For more on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, visit www.tbrpc.org

Source: Pasco County

PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC. GAINS NEW INVESTORS

Four companies have recently made an investment in the Pasco Economic Development Council (PEDC), the county’s economic development leadership organization: Aflac; The Independent Savings Plan Company; Plumbers of Soujanen Enterprises, Inc.; and Pro Star Logistics.

The financial support of new and current investors demonstrates sustained business commitment to creating economic opportunities in Pasco County. PEDC recruits new businesses to the community and assists businesses already here to expand. It also fosters collaboration between investors and community leaders to establish a new economic direction for Pasco County. Making an investment in PEDC helps position Pasco County to attract, retain and create high-value jobs.

Information about PEDC’s new investors:

Aflac is a fortune 500 company and introduced one of the world’s first cancer expense insurance policies in 1958. Since the 1980s, Aflac has added many new insurance policies, including accident, short-term disability, hospital intensive care, hospital confinement indemnity, long-term care, lump sum cancer, lump sum critical illness, specified health event, life, dental and vision. Bob Caylor, Independent Agent, is the local contact at (813)482-1487 or email at robert_caylor@us.aflac.com

The Independent Savings Plan Company (ISPC) is a finance company located in Odessa, Florida that has been providing consumer friendly loans to homeowners since 1983. In the early days, the goal was to finance a narrow range of environmentally sound products. Today, ISPC provides consumer financing for a wide variety of products through a network of select dealers and merchants. Products include residential heating and air-conditioning (HVAC), water conditioning/drinking water systems, solar water heating systems, and solar pool heating systems. Robert Schabes is the key contact at (813)490-3400 or email at rwschabes@theispc.com

Plumbers of Suojanen Enterprises is an innovative leader in the Tampa Bay area, supplying a complete foundation of support for virtually any type of new construction project large and small. While completing over 2,000 of new homes each year, Plumbers of Suojanen is proud to have achieved distinction as an innovative leader in business and in its local industry. With a fleet of over 150 trucks, the latest equipment and technology and a top-flight team of meticulously recruited professionals, Plumbers of Suojanen Enterprises is able to efficiently meet the demands of a project and deliver it on time. Erik Suojanen is the key contact at (813)926-0707 or email at eriks@yourplumbers.com

Pro Star Logistics has an office in Odessa, Florida. Pro Star offers multi carrier parcel and freight (LTL) shipping through its state of the art webship portal. Pro Star also offers a wide array of logistical services including International ocean/air, Freight forwarding, Parcel audit and negotiation and warehousing and fulfillment. Pro Star is also an official partner of DHL Express Worldwide. Pro Star will offer all PEDC members a heavy discount on all of its services. Darren Hart is the company contact at (813)464-0030 or email darren.hart@prostar.com or visit www.prostarlogistics.com

Source: Company Information from website

PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.; A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

PEDC is an organization that promotes countywide economic development. Created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders, it continues to be a strong partnership funded by corporate and public investors and

focused on the economic vitality of Pasco County.

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter, please contact PEDC at (813)920-6480 or cdearolf@pascoedc.com.

