



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2008

For additional information please contact: **Mary Lou Reed**
Executive Director
Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties
109 8th Avenue
Shalimar, FL 32579
mlreed@jobsplus02.com
850.651.2315x212

**LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND
ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON**

SHALIMAR, FL – Members of the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) annual convention recently in Washington D.C. With an attendance of over 1700 members from around the United States, the theme of the NAWB Forum 2008 was “Collaborate, Advocate, Innovate: Helping America Work.” The association represents close to 600 boards and approximately 25,000 board members nationwide.

During the two day convention, there were numerous workforce innovative sessions offering Best Practices, Federal Workforce legislative updates, and future workforce planning strategies. “Workforce issues are back on center stage,” noted local board Vice President, Al Ward, General Manager, Florida Transformer, Inc., one of the attendees. “The issue of more jobs, better jobs and quality training is in all of the platforms of the Presidential Candidates,” he continued.

Pictured left to right, Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties board members attending the convention: Al Ward, Florida Transformer; Robert Dobson, Gulf Power; Judy Byrne Riley, Maximum Management & Leasing; David Miller, Horizons of Okaloosa County; Mary Lou Reed, Workforce Development Board; Felix Beukenkamp, Beukenkamp Building Group; Earnestine Carswell, Phoenix Rehabilitation Consulting Services; Linda Sumblin, Workforce Development Board; and Lane Rees, Human Resource Solutions.

The Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties is a non-profit organization comprised of thirty-eight volunteer community leaders appointed by the Boards of County Commissions of both Okaloosa and Walton County. The Workforce Board identifies and facilitates the management of workforce issues in our local community and oversees the daily delivery of employment and training services to employers, workers, and job seekers through the JobsPlus One-Stop Career Centers. For more information on services available to all businesses and citizens, call the Workforce Board at 651-2315 or one of our JobsPlus One Stop Career Centers: 850.833.7587 in Fort Walton Beach, 850.689.7823 in Crestview or 850.892.8668 in DeFuniak Springs.



XXX