

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Mary Lou Reed named as the 2008
Toni Jennings Workforce Development Professional of the Year**

Mary Lou Reed, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties, was named the 2008 Toni Jennings Workforce Development Professional of the Year. The award was announced at the annual Florida Economic Development Council Awards Dinner in Tampa on May 19, 2008. Workforce Florida, Inc., and the Agency for Workforce Innovation submitted the nomination for Ms. Reed.

The award is given in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding workforce developer in the State of Florida.

Ms. Reed has served as the Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties since its inception in 1996. She began her work with the local employment and training programs in 1983.

Ms. Reed recognizes that the inter-connectedness of education and workforce development with economic development requires that effective partnerships be formed and managed to ensure the success of all involved. Ms. Reed has been an effective advocate of private sector business, touting their importance and significance to the economic success and workforce development of the State of Florida. She championed the vital link between economic development and workforce development, proving time and again that they are intertwined and the actions of one affect the other.

