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## News Release

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### Research Coast to Conduct State of the Region Event

Port St. Lucie, FL – Florida's Research Coast economic development organizations from Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties and Workforce Solutions are conducting their second annual State of the Region event on January 21, 2011.

"Last year's event was very informative and featured dynamic speakers that discussed current market trends and how regional companies could anticipate economic changes to innovate their business models," Vice President of Administration and Acting Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Richard Stetson said.

This year's presentation line-up includes Dr. Tony Villamil, CEO of the Washington Economics Group; Greg Baty, Vice President of Florida's Growth Fund; Dr. Claudia Hillinger, Vice President of Max Planck Florida; and Mark Lange, Executive Director of the Edward Lowe Foundation. Additionally, a number of local small to medium businesses from across the four-county region will provide participants a snapshot of their company.

"From an economic gardening perspective, all the topics being presented will reflect on our local economy and how businesses are working to grow and expand," Florida's Research Coast Chair Brian Cartland explained. "We anticipate a large audience again this year consisting of individuals who have interest in hearing economic analysis, economic development, investment in growth related businesses, cutting edge research and life sciences impact, innovation and entrepreneurship growth through economic gardening."

Local business leaders may register for the event at [www.FloridaRC.com](http://www.FloridaRC.com). The event is being held at Florida Atlantic University in Port St. Lucie.

"This is another example of regional partners working together on a common goal to help local businesses grow," Stetson said. "Throughout the Research Coast we will continue to coordinate and facilitate business development activities that benefit the local community."

Florida's Research Coast is comprised of the four-county region of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties of southeast Florida. The objective of our economic gardening strategy is to help local entrepreneurs successfully fast-track the sustainable expansion of their businesses and create local jobs for our residents.

For more information, visit [www.FloridaRC.com](http://www.FloridaRC.com)

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