



PUBLIC PARTNERS

St. Lucie County
City of Fort Pierce
City of Port St. Lucie
Florida Atlantic University
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
Indian River State College
SLC Chamber of Commerce
St. Lucie County School District
Workforce Development Board

BOARD OF ADVISOR LEVEL

Core Communities
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute / St. Lucie Medical Center
Martin Memorial Health Systems
National City
Riverside National Bank
Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies

CHAIRMAN'S LEVEL

AT&T Florida
Mann Research Center
McNicholas & Associates
Seacoast National Bank
Suffolk Construction Company
Tropicana

LEADERSHIP LEVEL

Asset Specialists Inc.
ComNet Realty, Inc.
First Peoples Bank
Florida Power & Light
Home Town Cable TV
Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers
Weiss, Handler, Angelos & Cornwell, PA

CORPORATE LEVEL

Anderson-Moore Construction Corp.
Astorino
Balfour Beatty
Bank Atlantic
BE&K Building Group, Inc.
Boyle / AECOM
Colonial Bank
C R Klewin Southeast, Inc.
Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer
DPR Construction, Inc.
Grand Bank & Trust of Florida
Gunster, Yoakley & Stuart, P.A.
Johnson Bros.
KIRCO
Liberty Medical
Mapp Construction, LLC
Orange Blossom Business Center
PGA Golf Club
Realtors Association of St. Lucie
Rhodes Holdings
RLC Architects, PA
Ruden McClosky
SLC Commercial, Inc.
Spherion

March 6, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of the State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Crist:

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, cities of Ft. Pierce and Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie County have realized great successes in attracting significant public and private sector projects to our area. Our efforts were not possible without the partnership of Florida's economic development system and our elected public leaders. We likewise could not have achieved our level of success without the commitments made on our behalf by the Pre K-20 educational institutes in our county.

Our Board of Directors, comprised of business and public representatives, recognizes the seriousness of the current economic downturn and the seriousness of the impacts on the state budget. We urgently ask that you place education funding at the top of the list of priorities for funding during the current Legislative Session, not as a "stop gap" measure, but as a long term commitment to the economic and social viability of our great state.

Thank you for your demonstrated leadership and for your consideration of this resolution. Our council pledges our continuing support of your efforts and look forward to an economically diverse and successful transition of our state to a knowledge enriched future.

Sincerely,

Thom Jones, Chair
Economic Development Council
of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Larry Pelton, President
Economic Development Council
of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Resolution of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc.

Whereas, St. Lucie County, in cooperation with the State of Florida has embarked on a dramatic shift toward a knowledge-based economy with the recruiting of The Torrey Pines Institute of Molecular Studies, The Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute of Florida, and The Alfred Mann Institute, and,

Whereas, St. Lucie County has an existing scientific and technology sector including Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University, The National Smithsonian Institute's Oceanographic research facility, a branch of the University of Florida's farming and agricultural sciences program, and a regional agricultural lab of the USDA, and,

Whereas, the county also has nationally recognized programs residing at both Indian River State College and Florida Atlantic University that produce new technologies applicable to our world class research facilities, and,

Whereas, the county's School Board is a critical contributor to the preparation of students for post-secondary education, as well as the workplace and has created a lab school for oceanographic studies on the FAU/Harbor Branch campus plus a K-8 lab school in partnership with FAU located in the Florida Innovation Center at Tradition, and,

Whereas, scientists and scientific staff recognized as truly "world-class" researchers are being recruited and are locating to our county with expectations of finding the highest quality education, and,

Whereas, the county and cities have joined the State in its efforts to attract companies that provide value-adding jobs that require superb intellectual and physical skills in the workforce, and,

Whereas, a variety of economic issues have forced our State to consider budget cuts in all areas of services over the past several years,

Be it resolved that the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Inc. (EDC) hereby declares that the highest quality of pre-kindergarten through graduate school education is the paramount concern for economic development and the future of our community and our state. Further, we urge the Governor of the State of Florida as well as the Florida Legislature to restore education funding to the levels attained in 2006. Additionally, EDC requests that in the process of prioritizing State funding changes during the current Legislative Session, that education be recognized as the top priority and that local decision-making on uses of funds be authorized throughout our State's educational system.

Passed unanimously this 3rd day of March 2009.