



Officers

Steven T. Halverson Chair
The Haskell Company

Marshall M. Criser, III Vice Chair
AT&T Florida

Barney Barnett Treasurer
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Susan Pareigis President and CEO

Board of Directors

Lee Arnold
Colliers International

Allan G. Bense
Bense Enterprises

C. David Brown
Broad and Cassel

Dean Colson
Colson Hicks Eidson

Christopher Corr
AECOM

Marshall M. Criser, Jr.
President Emeritus
University of Florida

Remedios Diaz-Oliver
All American Containers, Inc.

David Dyer
Chico's FAS Inc.

Shelley Freeman
Wells Fargo & Company

Ben Hill Griffin, III
Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

F. Philip Handy
Strategic Industries, LLC

Mike Jackson
AutoNation

Leerie T. Jenkins, Jr.
Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc.

Sydney W. Kitson
Kitson & Partners

Stephen Knopik
Beall's Inc.

Rhea F. Law
Fowler White Boggs, P.A.

Fred Leonhardt
GrayRobinson Law Firm

Scott Lutgert
The Lutgert Companies

F. David McKinney
BB&T - J. Rolfe Davis Insurance

Lou Plasencia
The Plasencia Group

Peter Rummell
Rummell Company, LLC

Kathleen Shanahan
Uretek Holdings, Inc.

William G. Smith, Jr.
Capital City Bank Group, Inc.

Susan N. Story
Southern Company Services

Stella Thayer
Tampa Bay Downs, Inc.

Robert E. White
BBVA Compass

Jordan Zimmerman
Zimmerman Advertising

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Steven Birnholz
(813) 326-0822
sbirnholz@fc100.org

The Florida Council of 100 Commends Governor Rick Scott's College & Career FIRST Initiative

TAMPA, Fla. (October 25, 2012) – Today, the Florida Council of 100 released the following statement regarding Governor Rick Scott's announcement of the College & Career FIRST education initiative:

"The Florida Council of 100 strongly believes that continued enhancement and development of Florida's talent is the leading determinant of the state's ability to build a vibrant and innovative economy. As described in our report, *Closing the Talent Gap*, it is vital that Florida identifies and implements the policies and programs that will deliver the highest value to our students. The first and last dollar spent should be based on a clear and articulated strategy to align our educational programs with the future of our children.

"Today's announcement of Governor Scott's College & Career FIRST initiative sets a bold direction consistent with many of the principles in *Closing the Talent Gap*. As business leaders, we support the Governor's commitment to K-12 education and look forward to working with him to advance a detailed plan of action grounded in high standards, rigorous assessments, and strong accountability."

###

Formed in 1961, the Florida Council of 100 is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of business, civic, and academic leaders, which exists to promote the economic growth of Florida and a high quality of life for its citizens. Visit www.fc100.org for more information.