



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, meaningful employment is fundamental to maintaining a healthy and vibrant economy and providing Floridians with a sense of self-worth and contribution to their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, the people of Florida are this state's greatest asset and are vital to our ability to expand economic opportunities and establish the Sunshine State as a global economic leader; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated men and women who support the workforce talent needs of Florida through the state workforce development system, which includes Workforce Florida, Enterprise Florida, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, 24 Regional Workforce Boards, and nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers, are committed to assisting our state during these extraordinary economic times by providing exemplary career training and employment assistance to more than 1.65 million job seekers and 40,000 employers annually; and

WHEREAS, Florida Families continue to thrive and are getting back to work, which is evident in the numbers: Florida's unemployment rate has dropped four points since December 2010, to 7.1 percent as of July 2013; Florida has added over 369,100 private sector jobs that have contributed to a positive annual job growth for the past 36 months; and Reemployment Assistance claims have fallen from approximately 400,000 claimants at the height of the recession to approximately 247,000; and

WHEREAS, EmployFlorida.com, known as the Employ Florida Marketplace, serves as the state's online job matching and labor market information exchange tool for people seeking new jobs and employers seeking new talent and serves as an essential resource of the state workforce system, providing a 24-hour gateway to services that enhance Florida's workforce talent. The site receives more than 104,000 visits daily, lists more than 280,000 job openings monthly, and provides employers access to more than two million resumes; and

WHEREAS, Florida's workforce system continues to serve as a national model for innovation and has been recognized with several honors, including this year's No. 1 ranking for infrastructure in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's annual *Enterprising States* report, a No. 1 ranking for innovation in *Fast Company*, and *CEO Magazine's* ranking as the No. 2 state in the nation for business; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated professionals within the state workforce system remain firmly committed to the top priorities of helping unemployed Floridians get back to work and assisting those who are employed to advance within their professions while maintaining the system's demand-driven, business-led focus and strengthening Florida's talent supply chain to secure a sustainable and vibrant economic future for our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 2013 as *Workforce Development Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 29th day of August, in the year two thousand thirteen.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, Governor of Florida.

Governor