



*Agency for Workforce Innovation*

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## **GOVERNOR JOINS TOP EDUCATION, BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE LEADERS AT ORLANDO SUMMIT**

*~Three-day summit promotes education and innovative Florida marketplace~*

**ORLANDO** – Governor Charlie Crist today reaffirmed his commitment to the future of Florida's economy at the 2008 Governor's Summit on Education, Workforce and Economic Development. Governor Crist joined Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Monesia T. Brown and Workforce Florida President Chris Hart as they hosted the event featuring distinguished education, business and workforce leaders from across the state and country.

"I am committed to continuing Florida's success in building an innovation economy that is even more viable in the global market," Governor Crist said. "We recognize that our efforts to provide world-class education and to support the entrepreneurial spirit must work together to create economic opportunity for the people of Florida."

Friday's event concluded the three-day summit aimed at developing innovative strategies to keep Florida's economy strong and its workforce prepared for a highly-educated future marketplace. The first two days of the summit emphasized Florida's Early Learning program. Early learning professionals collaborated to form partnerships and community action plans, developing a collective mission to serve the youngest Floridians and cultivate their abilities into world-class talent.

"To remain a leader in the global marketplace, we must continue to be dedicated to providing a highly educated and skilled workforce," said Monesia T. Brown, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. "This summit emphasizes our commitment to enhancing partnerships and creating new innovative strategies to ensure a successful and prosperous outlook for future generations."

Governor Crist's keynote address culminated the week's activities. The Governor spoke about quality education and its role in economic development. In addition, the Governor emphasized his commitment to keep Florida's economy vibrant.

Along with the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Florida Inc., other state entities participating in the summit included the Department of Education, the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, Florida Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Florida. The theme, *Partnerships and Possibilities*, emphasized the importance of aligning multiple agencies, organizations and communities to enhance services to the people of Florida and keep the state's economy competitive.