



**Charlie Crist**  
Governor

**Monesia T. Brown**  
Director

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$1 Million Grant**

*~“CLEAN Energy” grant to accelerate training and certification for energy industry~*

ST. PETERSBURG – Agency for Workforce Innovation Director Monesia T. Brown joined U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao yesterday in Pinellas County as she awarded a \$1 Million “CLEAN Energy” grant to WorkNet Pinellas.

The CLEAN Energy (Certification, Licensing & Education of Apprentices for the Nuclear Energy industry) grant is part of the President’s High Growth Job Training Initiative. It will be used to accelerate training and certification of welders for Florida’s burgeoning energy industry.

The event, held at the Pinellas Technical Education Centers in St. Petersburg, included tours of the facility and remarks by Director Brown, Secretary Chao, Congressman Bill Young, WorkNet President & CEO Ed Peachey, and other state and local partners.

Director Brown thanked Secretary Chao and Congressman Young for attending the event and stated: “Our relationship with our federal, state and local workforce partners, and your ongoing advocacy and dedication to Florida’s future are critical to our success.”

Noting the grant funds will be used to help meet a critical need for labor to build nuclear power plants and complete major projects throughout the state, the Director added: “Under the direction of Governor Crist, we will continue to focus on emerging industries and high-wage, high-growth jobs crucial to our economic prosperity.”

WorkNet Pinellas, the regional workforce board, has arranged a collaboration with local and regional partners to manage the grant throughout the affected 11-county radius of West Central Florida. For further information about these local partnerships, please contact Jacqueline Skryd at 727.507.4300, ext. 3033.

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