

Agency for Workforce Innovation

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Governor

Monesia T. Brown
Director

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AWI DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN ZERO GRAVITY FLIGHT

~ Florida's new Microgravity Education and Research Center brings opportunities for Florida's workforce~

TALLAHASSEE— The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) Director Monesia T. Brown took to the skies today in support of Florida's new Microgravity Education and Research Center and its potential to create new aerospace jobs in Florida. Demonstrating AWI's pledge to providing workforce service to the growing aerospace industry, Director Brown put on a flight suit and participated in a ZERO-G flight during the kick-off event for the new research center.

"For decades Florida has been the pioneer in the aerospace industry, and the creation of the microgravity research center will only further that distinction," said Monesia T. Brown, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. "However, we also realize that in order to maintain this honor we must be prepared with a workforce system ready to address the unique needs of this industry. This new center will allow us to do just that."

The new Florida Microgravity Education and Research Center will train and hire thousands of Florida-based teachers and aerospace industry coaches to staff the ZERO-G flights as well as the research and education center. Florida's students will benefit from the Center's microgravity research, as well as specialized training that will prepare them to enter this specialized workforce.

Florida's space, aeronautics, and aviation industries accounted for nearly 90,000 jobs in 2006, with an average wage 45 percent above the state average.

Identified as one of the industries that are vital to Florida's continued growth, AWI is committed to providing workforce service to the aerospace industry. In fact, in August of 2006, AWI along with its partner, Workforce Florida, opened the first Employ Florida Banner Center dedicated specifically to the fields of aviation and aerospace in Jacksonville. Additionally, through services like the Incumbent Worker Training and Quick Response Training programs, AWI provides critical workforce support for the aerospace industry while positioning Florida for sustained economic growth and prosperity.

AWI is the lead state agency for workforce and early learning services in the State of Florida. The Office of Early Learning, a division within the Agency, provides oversight of Florida's school readiness programs and is the lead entity for implementing the state's Voluntary Prekindergarten program. AWI directly administers Early Learning, Labor Market Statistics and Unemployment Compensation programs along with various workforce development programs.

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