



# PRESS RELEASE

## **TCC Partners with Workforce Florida, FAMU, and Gadsden Chamber for Economic and Workforce Development**

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Alice Maxwell, TCC Communications Director

Tallahassee, Fla. – As part of its continuing efforts to improve the local economy, Tallahassee Community College has become the lead agency in a partnership to develop small businesses and improve worker skills in Gadsden County.

Workforce Florida, Inc., the state's chief workforce policy organization, is funding the \$500,000 Beacon Project, a two-year collaboration among TCC's Division of Economic and Workforce Development, Florida A&M University and the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce.

"Building the capacity of companies through skills upgrade training for existing and future employees is critical to the economy of any county, but even more so for Florida's rural counties," said Tramm Hudson, Chair of Workforce Florida, Inc. "The Beacon Project allows us to impact the lives of people living in Gadsden as well as the small businesses that employ them - it's a win-win for us all."

The Beacon Project will provide assistance to small businesses seeking to start up or expand and training to workers who are looking for jobs or in need of professional development. All businesses and individuals participating in the program will receive the services free of cost.

"One of our goals is to ensure that small businesses in Gadsden County are able to employ more people," said TCC President Bill Law. "Another is to ensure that local residents have in-demand job skills with which to meet the need for trained workers."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Gadsden County has the highest unemployment rate in TCC's service area: 4.3 percent in August 2005, as compared to Leon County's 3.3 percent and Wakulla's 2.9 percent.

A press conference announcing the alliance will be held on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 10:00 a.m. at TCC's Quincy House, 216 North Adams Street in Quincy, Florida. Participants will include Dr. Law, Curtis Austin, president of Workforce Florida, Inc., and David Gardner, director of the Gadsden County Chamber of Commerce. Local small business owners working with the partnership will also be on hand.

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*Florida* | **Campus Compact**

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