

## 2002 BUSINESS CLIMATE AND ECONOMIC TRENDS

### Forging our Future: Business as a Partner in Education

This forum explored how businesses are currently shaping our future workforce, what Jacksonville businesses can do to meet the needs of our changing economy, and how businesses can partner with schools to make students more successful.

#### Key findings:

- Lack of emphasis on career exploration and awareness for trade industries.
- Lack of a structured process to encourage and engage business partners with local education.
- Lack of a global, collaborative strategy of those striving to partner business with education.

#### Action plan:

Forum members will adopt a Career Academy and develop a process to become involved by offering to assist with speakers bureaus for career awareness, becoming mentors, internships (positions for Students), and externships (positions for Teachers).

It was the consensus of the group that the lack of a working process to encourage and assist businesses in getting involved with the public schools was the biggest challenge facing the community. However, it was also recognized that such a task would be too large to be addressed by any action taken by the committee itself.

The committee will recruit up to 20 volunteers to participate in the action plan development and design phase during the summer of 2002, and will work to implement the plan starting with the new school year.

This action plan will allow the committee members the opportunity to gain valuable insight and experience to put toward further development of a working model that can be shared with others.

### Community Resource Speakers

Jerry Mallot; Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Cornerstone	Lee Arsenault; Northeast Florida Builders Association
Danny Burns; Peterson Career Academy	Billie Nimnicht; Jacksonville Auto Dealers Association
Chris Force; Wolfson Career Academy	Charles Cold; Bank of America
Raleigh Sapp; Clay County Districts Schools	Carol Quay; HCA Healthcare, Memorial Hospital
Dr. John Porter; National Center on Education and the Economy, Washington D.C.	Bob Baldwin; Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Division
Mike Israel; ATS	Bonnie Barnes; Presentation Resources Inc.
Candace Moody; WorkSource	Lori Cheatham; Florida Association of Nurse Administrators
Lad Daniels; First Coast Manufacturer's Association	Jamie Davis; Recruitmax Software

### Issue Forum Participants

Melissa Gross-Arnold, Chair	Mike Helton	Victor Melone
Martin Harrell, Co-chair	Mike Israel	Billie Nimnicht
Jennifer Ashenfelder	Rudy Jamison	A.D. Roberts
Stephan Avery	Jill Jinks	Marc Rubinstein
Kimberly Barnes	Brian Keeney	Heather Schuler
Claudine Brown	Alan Ketchum	Justin Terry
Paula Chaon	Alexander Koster	Jane Wahl
Bill Gassett	Tramy Lam	Tayloe White
Dawn Gilman	Carla Marlier	