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PRESS CONTACT

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Regional Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) | Public Workshops

FORT MYERS, FL – (April 18, 2012) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) will be holding a series of local workshops to develop a five-year Regional Economic Development Plan for Southwest Florida. The region covers Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties. These workshops will build on information gathered at the March 6th regional forum held by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity at FGCU in its effort to create a five-year economic development plan for the state. The regional plan will be created using the Six Pillars of Florida’s Future Economy framework which is focused on critical factors determining Florida’s future: (1) Talent Supply & Education, (2) Innovation & Economic Development, (3) Infrastructure & Growth Leadership, (4) Business Climate & Competitiveness, (5) Civic & Governance Systems and (6) Quality of Life & Quality Places.

In addition, the goal of this comprehensive public engagement process will be to position our region for positive change by identifying investment priorities and developing consensus on economic development projects that need to be accomplished over the next five years in our region to build Prosperity, High Paying Jobs, Vibrant Communities and Global Competitiveness. The workshops will include significant public input and utilize interactive voting devices to develop consensus.

Workshop schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 25 | **Charlotte County** 4 pm – 6 pm
- Thursday, April 26 | **Glades County** 2 pm – 4 pm
- Monday, April 30 | **Lee County** 3 pm – 5 pm or 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 1 | **Sarasota County** 6 pm – 8 pm
- Thursday, May 3 | **Hendry County** 6 pm – 7:30 pm
- Friday, May 4 | **Seminole Tribe of Florida** 10 am – 12 pm
- Wednesday, May 9 | **Collier County** 5 pm – 6:30 pm
- Saturday, May 19 | **Regional Meeting** 10 am – 12 pm

To register for an event or for additional information, please visit www.swfrpc.org.

For questions and more information on the Florida DEO forum, please contact Ms. Margaret Wuerstle at 239-338-2550 ext. 222 or mwuerstle@swfrpc.org or Jennifer Pellechio at 338-2550 Ext 218 or jpellechio@swfrpc.org.