



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDC Receives FEDC 2011 "Deal of the Year" and "Professional of the Year" Awards

Award presented at the Annual Conference in Orlando

Brevard County, Fla. (June 30, 2011) –The FEDC Annual Conference proved to be a terrific opportunity and placed the spotlight on the local Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC). The EDC won two of the states' most prestigious awards as presented by the Florida Economic Development Council. In addition to receiving the "Deal of the Year" award, Lynda Weatherman, President & CEO of the EDC, was recognized as the "Eunice Sullivan Professional of the Year." The FEDC "Professional of the Year" award recognizes the achievements of an outstanding economic developer in Florida. The awards were presented to the EDC at the FEDC Annual Conference in Orlando on June 23.

The FEDC is the most highly respected trade organization within the State of Florida with a mission to provide leadership and vision to advance economic development professionals and economic development throughout the state of Florida as a whole.

The "Deal of the Year" recognizes outstanding achievement in the location/expansion of a project in the State of Florida and was awarded to the EDC for work with AAR Corp. Awards are given annually to recognize an outstanding deal from a rural community, urban community and regional cooperative (multi-county) area. The "Deal of the Year" award is based on two primary judging criteria: economic impact and degree of expertise needed to create the deal.

In April, 2010, Chicago-based AAR Corp. purchased Aviation Worldwide Services and sought to relocate the business from its North Carolina location. The EDC competed with at least four other states – all with similar competitive advantages – for this highly sought after project. The EDC worked closely with AAR Corp. to overcome a variety of obstacles to a Florida location and provided guidance in developing statutory tax solutions to areas of critical concern, including sales and property taxes. It was through a collaborative effort that the EDC was able to develop a proposal and secure AAR's relocation to the Space Coast in this highly competitive project.

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Additionally, FEDC recognized the EDC’s Director of Business Development, Rob Salonen, for his recent achievement in earning the designation of Certified Economic Developer (CEdD). This designation is a national recognition that denotes a mastery of principal skills in economic development, professional attainment and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

“These two awards are a testament to a highly skilled and highly professional staff at the EDC. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I congratulate Lynda and her staff for their hard work and dedication,” said Bob Whelen, Chairman of the Board, EDC.

About the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast

The Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast is dedicated to the attraction, relocation, retention and expansion of business. The EDC is a private, not-for-profit coalition whose stakeholders are business leaders committed to the economic growth and stability of Florida’s Space Coast. Visit www.SpaceCoastEDC.org.

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