



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDC Names Lynda Weatherman "Professional of the Year"

Award presented at the Annual Conference in Orlando

Brevard County, Fla. (June 24, 2011) – Lynda Weatherman, President and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, has been awarded the FEDC "Eunice Sullivan Professional of the Year" award. The Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) "Professional of the Year" award recognizes the achievements of an outstanding economic developer in Florida. The award was presented at the Annual Conference dinner on June 23 in Orlando. Governor Rick Scott served as the keynote speaker.

Under Weatherman's leadership, the EDC's recent accomplishments include the successful attraction of Embraer's first and only U.S. manufacturing assembly plant, representing over \$42 million in economic impact; retention of the Space Coast's Naval Ordnance Test Unit through the reversal of a BRAC Commission decision; attainment of the assembly and checkout of NASA's Crew Exploration Vehicle; enhancement and streamlining of building and site permitting throughout Brevard County; and facilitation of the first-ever Space Act agreement between Kennedy Space Center and an economic development organization.

Additionally, within the past 6 months, the EDC welcomed two new companies to the Space Coast, collectively representing 425 new jobs and nearly \$60 million in new capital investment. Embraer officially began operations on February 21 at its manufacturing facility at Melbourne International Airport. On April 18, AAR CORP began operations at facilities totaling over 128,000 square feet at Melbourne International Airport and in Palm Bay. Plus, Midair USA has announced its plans for location at Melbourne International Airport, representing 450 jobs at full employment at a projected \$30 million in capital investment. Groundbreaking for the company's facility is expected within the next several months.

Weatherman has served since 2009 as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Jacksonville Branch, where she currently presides as Chair.

In 2010, Weatherman was appointed to Governor-elect Rick Scott's Economic Development Transition Team, tasked with identifying innovative ideas from the private sector, success stories from other states, cost-saving opportunities and legislative priorities that can assist the Governor-elect.

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That same year, Weatherman was selected to be a member of the Air Force Chief of Staff Civic Leader Program. She serves as an advisor, key communicator, and advocate for the Air Force and provides ideas and feedback to the Secretary of the Air Force and Air Force Chief of Staff.

Upon receiving the award, Lynda Weatherman said, "It could not be a more demanding time for economic development at both the state and local level, and we continue to fight the fight. I am honored to receive such a prestigious award."

Bob Whelen, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, stated, "Lynda creatively seeks new and innovative approaches for long range development for Space Coast businesses. Her relentless pursuit for creativity, along with her forward thinking strategies, has positioned her as a leader within the community and among her peers. On behalf of the EDC Board of Directors, I congratulate Lynda for this well-deserved recognition."

Lynda Weatherman earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences/Education from the University of South Florida and a Masters in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi. Her work in economic development resulted in winning a Rotarian Fellowship to the University of Hong Kong where, in 1990, she completed a second Masters degree in International and Urban Planning. Weatherman has held leadership posts with the Florida Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, Marion County Economic Development Agency and the City of Titusville. She has served in her current role as president & CEO of the EDC of Florida's Space Coast since 1994.

The Florida Economic Development Council "Professional of the Year" award was first given in 1985 and was renamed in 1991 to honor Eunice Sullivan for her outstanding dedication and commitment to the economic development profession and the Florida Economic Development Council.

About the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast is dedicated to attracting new business and investment and expanding existing industry throughout the Space Coast, influencing change on government laws and regulations affecting economic development, promoting the Space Coast to encourage new investment, supporting efforts of Space Coast military installations, and relaying new programs and procedures to assist manufacturing and high tech companies. 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.

About the Florida Economic Development Council

The Florida Economic Development Council is dedicated to providing leadership and vision to advance economic development professionals and economic development throughout the state of Florida as a whole.

More information is available at <http://www.FEDC.net>

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