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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Polk Works Honors Best Places to Work

Bartow, Florida, August 19, 2011- A crowd of over 400 people attended Polk Works Annual Meeting & Best Places to Work award ceremony held Thursday, August 18, 2011 at the Lakeland Center as the winners of the Best Places to Work Awards were announced.

The honor of being an employer recognized for their workplace practices and increasing the quality of life for their employees was limited to an elite few. The Best Places to Work Award has been designed to recognize companies that are taking the lead in developing quality workplaces that ensure competitiveness for a skilled workforce. These companies are the most innovative in the areas of motivating and retaining employees, training and development initiatives, and workplace practices that include commitment to work/life balance issues.

Awards were presented by Stacy Campbell-Domineck, Polk Works CEO. Companies honored as a Best Places to Work were: Small Company Category – American Compliance Technologies, DSM Technology Consultants, Clark Environmental Inc, and Madrid Engineering Group; Medium Company Category - Cross, Fernandez & Riley and First Service Administrators, Inc.; Large Company Category – Clark & Daughtrey Medical Group, Florida's Natural Growers, and The Estates at Carpenters; Mega or International Company Category – Ferguson Enterprises, Coca-Cola Refreshments, and Southern Wine & Spirits.

To qualify for the awards, each company completed an online application, participated in an employee satisfaction survey, and was reviewed by panel of 5 judges. The judges forfeited the opportunity for their companies to apply for the awards and volunteered their time and expertise to the selection process. The judges this year were: Bart Lewis, Juice Bowl; Jill Hall,

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Polk State College; Traci Hall, ResCare Workforce Services; Katherine Pawlak, Florida Southern College and Sandy Wotring, Best HR Solutions.

In addition to the employer awards, three Board Awards were presented. These awards included the Hammer Award which was given to Katrina Lunsford, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo; the Larry Miller Award awarded to Mike Wilkerson; and the Workforce Champion Award presented to Dr. Eileen Holden, President Polk State College.

For more information on these awards or other events, please contact WorkForce 2020 at 863-508-1600, ext 1102.

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Polk Works is a private, non-profit administrator of workforce funds. Our mission is to be the innovative leader to ensure and sustain a quality workforce for today and the future. For more information go to www.polkworks.org. Polk Works offers equal opportunity programs & auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Member Employ Florida.