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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Polk Unemployment Rate Declines

Bartow, Florida, March 25, 2011- The State of Florida has released preliminary unemployment figures for February. The unemployment rate in Polk County dropped to 11.7 percent from 12.8 percent the previous month. This was a decrease of 0.6 percentage point from the rate the region posted in the same month last year. In February 2011, Polk County's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point higher than the state rate of 11.0 percent and 2.2 percentage points above the national rate of 9.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 274,917, there were 32,286 unemployed Polk county residents.

"It is encouraging to see the unemployment rate begin to decrease, but we are not satisfied yet" said Polk Works President & CEO, Stacy Campbell-Domineck. In an effort to match local employers with potential job candidates, Polk Works is hosting a Virtual Job Fair during the week of April 24-30. This unique opportunity allows job seekers and employers to connect without the added hustle and bustle of a traditional job fair. Employers may register for this event now until April 18. The fair will be open to job seekers twenty four hours a day beginning Sunday, April 24 and ending at midnight on Saturday, April 30. For more information on this event or any other Polk Works event, please call (863) 508-1600 ext. 1102 or visit www.polkworks.org.

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 that are available upon request to individuals with disabilities Member: Employ Florida.