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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLK WORKS ASSISTS STUDENTS WITH COST OF OBTAINING GED

Bartow, Florida, October 31, 2011- *Polk Works* is sponsoring the following GED classroom locations for the 2011 – 2012 school year: Bethune Neighborhood Center, Haines City; Davenport School of the Arts, Davenport; Eastside Elementary, Haines City; Gause Academy, Fort Meade; Lake Wales High School, Lake Wales; Polk Works One Stop, Winter Haven; Sleepy Hill Middle School, Lakeland.

Polk Works' annual ACES Golf Tournament provides funds for the GED sponsorship program by covering costs relating to GED instructors and the GED exam. In addition, students attending a Polk Works sponsored GED class, who meet the eligibility requirements of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, may qualify to receive a tuition waiver through Polk Works.

Stacy Campbell-Domineck, CEO of *Polk Works*, stated, "In order for *Polk Works* to live up to our mission of ensuring and sustaining a quality workforce for today and the future, we need to address the issue of an undereducated workforce in Polk County. Part of that solution is ensuring that GED preparation classes and testing are accessible to those that need them most" According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey over 18% of those 25 years older living in Polk county have less than a high school diploma or equivalency compared to 14.5% statewide.

For more information about GED classroom locations, other services and upcoming events offered by *Polk Works*, please visit us on the web at www.polkworks.org or at 863-508-1100.

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