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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Polk Unemployment Rate Declines for the Second Month in a Row

Bartow, Florida, April 15, 2011- The State of Florida has released preliminary unemployment figures for March. The unemployment rate in Polk County dropped to 11.3 percent from 11.8 percent the previous month. This was a decrease of 0.8 percentage point from the rate the region posted in the same month last year. In March 2011, Polk County's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point higher than the state rate of 10.6 percent and 2.1 percentage points above the national rate of 9.2 percent. Out of a labor force of 274,653, there were 31,037 unemployed Polk county residents.

"This decline in unemployment for the second month in a row is a positive sign for not only Polk County, but the state of Florida as a whole. Hopefully this is a trend that will continue in the months ahead", says Polk Works President and CEO, Stacy Campbell-Domineck. Polk Works is dedicated to building a sustainable workforce in Polk County, offering numerous programs and assistance for job seekers at the Lakeland and Winter Haven One-Stop Centers. The One-Stop Centers provide a wide range of services including access to the career resource room for job searches, free job readiness workshops, career development and training, GED classes and much more. Additional services are also available for professional job seekers. The Polk Works One-Stop Centers are located in Winter Haven (500 E. Lake Howard Drive) and Lakeland (309 N. Ingraham Ave.). For more information about any of the Polk Works services, please call (863) 508-1100 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.