



Gulf Coast Workforce Board Wins 2007 National Workforce Association Award For Urban One-Stop Excellence



In recognition of its success serving the Gulf Coast region's demand-driven employment and training needs, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board won the 2007 National Workforce Association Award for Urban One-Stop Excellence.

The Workforce Board won the honor at the National Workforce Association (NWA) Legislative Conference held on December 2, 2007 at the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla. About 500 people attended the conference, including members and staff of both houses of the U.S. Congress.

The award was based on the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's embracing the demand-driven approach to employment and training initiatives and on its work to ensure that employers in our service region have an adequate supply of well-educated and well-trained workers that will enable them to compete in today's global economy. The Board's major successes that led to the award included harnessing more than \$25 million from various public and private funding sources during the last six years to address the health care industry's nursing shortage. The Board launched its major health care initiative in 2000. By fall 2006, enrollment levels in Gulf Coast nursing schools had risen 43 percent above fall 2000 levels, and 2006 nursing school graduation rates were 67 percent higher than those of 2000. The Board is also partnering with energy and construction entities to address similar worker shortages in those industries.

The National Workforce Association is a membership organization dedicated to strengthening the nation's workforce development system. Formerly called the National Association of County Training and Employment Professionals, the NWA is one of the largest of more than 23 affiliates with NACo (National Association of Counties).