



Release

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STATE EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS *Florida TaxWatch Honors Those Who Save Taxpayers Money*

Tampa — Florida TaxWatch recognized state employees from the Tampa/St. Petersburg area for their innovative and cost-saving ideas. Forty winners were presented, individually and in teams, with awards at the **Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, June 10 (11:30 a.m. – 1: 30 p.m.) in Tampa at the Tampa Marriott Westshore, 1001 N Westshore.**

The Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards program is a major government improvement initiative chaired by Lt. Governor Kottkamp, administered by Florida TaxWatch, and sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100, and the State of Florida. Now celebrating its 21th Anniversary, the program recognizes and rewards (with cash awards of \$250 to \$2,750 plus commemorative plaques and certificates of commendation) state employees who clearly exceed their job descriptions and performance expectations in ways that improve service delivery and save money for Florida taxpayers.

The 2009 competition awarded 559 individual and team winners statewide for their innovations and productivity improvements worth \$342 million in cost savings, cost avoidances, and increased revenue for state government. The program saves even more money by working with agencies and government officials to replicate the cost-savings measures recognized and rewarded during the annual competition.

“For 21 years, this award has recognized the importance of rewarding and replicating the cost saving innovations generated throughout Florida by state employees like you,” said the Lt. Governor speaking on the Prudential Davis Productivity Awards program. “On behalf of Governor Crist and the 19 million people who call Florida home, thank you for the exceptional work you do to improve the quality of life we all enjoy and for your dedication to our great state.”

“It is important that cost-saving innovations generated by devoted state workers are recognized, rewarded, and replicated throughout Florida,” said David A. Smith, Chairman, CEO and President, PSS World Medical and Chairman of Florida TaxWatch. “In this way, we can assure the citizens of our great state that their government is operating as efficiently as possible in providing the high-quality services they deserve, at the lowest possible cost.”

“Now more than ever, it is necessary that the state government deliver services more efficiently and effectively; each of these award winners is a model of how we can improve government together,” said Dominic M. Calabro, President and CEO of Florida TaxWatch.

“These individuals bring honor to themselves and to state government”, said Florida House of Representatives Speaker Larry Cretul of the achievements of the award winners. “Their accomplishments in generating efficiencies, productivity, and savings set an example for us all. They deserve our recognition and reward for jobs well done.”

Some winners from the Tampa/St. Petersburg area who are being honored at today’s luncheon include:

Dismantled Drug Trafficking and Violent Street Gangs

Brian H. Kitchner, Special Agent, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Sarasota

Notable Individual Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)

Brian Kitchner was the lead agent on two complex racketeering and conspiracy investigations that, over a three-year period, dismantled violent drug trafficking and street gang organizations involved in home invasion robberies, kidnapping, drug and weapons offenses. His work with the Office of Statewide Prosecution, U.S. Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Sheriff's Office resulted in arrest and prosecution of 74 defendants. Mr. Kitchner's achievement was considered tops among FDLE's 200 agents statewide. Award Code: FDLE-8

Improved Clinical Service, Efficiency and Financial Outcomes

Clinical Enterprise Team, Sarasota County Health Department

Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)

This 18-member team integrated the principles of evidence-based practice management into the department's clinical practice and fiscal operations to improve revenue cycle management, efficiency, productivity and financial outcomes, and reduce reliance on general revenue for clinical operations. During 2007-08, revenues (clinic fees, Medicaid and Medicare) from this first-in-Florida initiative increased 39% (\$1.9 million), primary care encounters increased 10% (6,467), and unduplicated patients increased 19% (5,157). The result was a 5% (\$10.27) decrease in cost per service per patient while reported patient satisfaction remained at 97.7%. Added value: \$1.9 million. Award Code: DOH-56

Developed Information Sharing tool using Share Point

Traffic Operations Analysis Section, Department of Transportation, Bartow

Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)

This 10-member section created a SharePoint site which is being expanded from hurricane damage recovery support of 998 district signals to encompass all District One Traffic operations functions. The section's achievement annually saves an estimated \$85,500. Award Code: DOT-41

Developed and Implemented Single Point of Contact Program

Single Point of Contact Program, Department of Transportation, Tampa

Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)

This team worked with state and local response personnel and roadway maintenance contractors to develop a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) program that improves the efficiency of after-hours reporting between citizens and agencies, thereby reducing the number of incidents that are misreported, incorrectly referred, or lost in the bureaucracy. SPOC ensures that issues are efficiently referred to the correct jurisdiction resulting in improved response times and less wasted efforts. The reduction in delay created by this program produces annual estimated savings of \$2.1 million. Award Code: DOT-150

Implemented DUI Drug Court to Enhance Public Safety

Polk County DUI Drug Court Team, Office of the State Attorney, Bartow

Notable Team Award (Cash Award and Commemorative Plaque)

This team implemented a DUI Drug Court to take defendants beyond traditional case processing to address underlying problems that bring them to court. The program, which includes first-in-Florida outpatient treatment while on probation, is intended to keep participants sober and reduce repeat DUI offenses. Using judicial oversight and treatment to help address defendants' substance abuse, the program has saved \$826,000 by reducing the average time that DUI defendants spend in the Polk County jail. Award Code: SCS-4

Of the 61 awards given to 419 state employees from the Jacksonville area, 40 awards were represented to 132 state employees at the luncheon. All Tampa area award winning achievements, and those of many other extraordinary state workers from around Florida, are detailed in the **2009 Prudential - Davis Productivity Awards Magazine**, distributed at the luncheon and available at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org/dpa. The attached file lists all 40 awards that were presented at the luncheon.

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Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 29 year history has become widely recognized as the watchdog of citizens' hard-earned tax dollars. Its mission is to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and education on government revenues, expenditures, taxation, public policies and programs and to increase the productivity and accountability of Florida state and local government. Its support comes from homeowners and retirees, small and large businesses, philanthropic foundations, and professional associations. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.