

REMINDER: TODAY'S TAMPA EVENT IS 11:30a.m. TO 1 p.m. AT THE HYATT REGENCY TAMPA, 211 NORTH TAMPA STREET. Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of Florida TaxWatch will be attending and will be available for interviews about the DPA and on the special legislative session on property taxes.



NEWS

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

TAMPA — Florida TaxWatch is proud to recognize twenty-nine individual state employees and teams from the greater Tampa Bay area receiving recognition for a job well done in the Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards. Their achievements will be published in the “**2007 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards**” *magazine*, to be released at a luncheon today in downtown Tampa honoring those winners.

“Our state employees are Florida’s most valuable resource. I’m proud to be a part of a program that helps distinguish and encourage the initiative and creativity of our state employees and promotes wise innovations that serve the people of Florida better,” said Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Chairman of the awards program.

The Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards program is a major government improvement initiative chaired by Lt. Governor Kottkamp and sponsored by Florida TaxWatch, The Florida Council of 100 and the State of Florida. Cash awards of \$200 to \$2,500 plus commemorative plaques and certificates of commendation are presented annually to state employees who clearly exceed their job descriptions and performance expectations in ways that improve service delivery and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses.

“The Davis Productivity Awards are proof that the State of Florida has some of the most creative and innovative minds working to save our taxpayers’ dollars,” said Mike Jennings, Vice President of Government Relations for Prudential Financial and Chairman of Florida TaxWatch. “They continually go above and beyond the call of duty, and I think it’s extremely important to recognize that,” said Jennings.

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This year's awards magazine will include two new and noteworthy sections. One highlights achievements of significant technology advancements and the other showcases wellness innovations throughout state government.

"Our state government is continually challenged to deliver services more efficiently and effectively," said Dominic M. Calabro, President of Florida TaxWatch. "But Florida's state employees constantly rise to the occasion."

The 2007 competition awarded 490 winners statewide for their innovations and productivity improvements worth \$332 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government. Some winners from the Tampa Bay area who are being honored at today's luncheon include:

**"Fortify Florida" Hurricane Preparedness Exposition
Department of Financial Services, Largo**

The state's first Hurricane Preparedness Exposition, held in Tampa, brought together insurance companies, contractors, home improvement stores, emergency managers and other public and private sector participants to educate homeowners about tools needed to harden homes against hurricane damage and ways to reduce their insurance premiums. For more information, please contact Audrey Brown at (850) 413-2429 or audrey.brown@fldfs.com. (Award 2007 DFS-027)

**Crash Data Management System Team
Department of Transportation, Tampa**

This five-member team created a Geographic Information System-based crash data management system which expedites and enhances traffic safety studies. Unwieldy mainframe data is imported to perform routine, recurring tasks in a fraction of the time, enabling staff to study more locations in detail for estimated annual added value of \$300,000. The system can be implemented by all DOT districts with minimal set-up and staff training costs, and in local government agencies with moderate set-up efforts. For more information, please contact Ping Hsu (813) 975-6251 or ping.hsu@dot.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DOT-002)

**Vaccine Preservation Team
Department of Health, Tampa**

To avoid the loss of vaccine doses during emergency events, this three-member team developed a contact kit for providers that attaches to their refrigeration units for easy access. Transparent plastic sleeves with magnetic strips facilitate access and use of critical information. A training DVD in English and Spanish accompanies the kit. Estimated avoidance of public and private vaccine loss from this initiative is \$332,000. The kit can be used for medication requiring refrigeration in all providers' offices, not just vaccine doses. For more information, please contact Rick Barrett at (850) 245-4444 or rick_barrett@doh.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DOH-025)

Prudential Financial is in its fourth year as Anchor Sponsor of the Davis Productivity Awards program. Their support is crucial for sustaining and growing this nationally unique initiative. Governor Charlie Crist and Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp have made leveraging the added value of award winning achievements by adapting them to other areas of state government a priority for building a more effective and efficient government. The Florida TaxWatch Adaptable Achievements on-line publication identifies more than 700 achievements from the past five years of winners that can create more than \$100 million worth of this added value within three years after full implementation.

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Florida TaxWatch, The Council of 100, and the State of Florida will be honoring other award winners from across the state at other regional luncheon ceremonies scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, June 13th – Orlando
- Thursday, June 14th – Fort Lauderdale
- Monday, June 18th – Jacksonville
- Wednesday, June 20th – Gainesville

Since 1989, more than 12,000 individuals, teams, work units and partnerships have been honored for producing more than \$5.6 billion worth of added value.

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[Click here](#) to view the 2007 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards magazine.

[Click here](#) to view the 2007 Adaptables magazine

MEDIA NOTE: The actual awards presentation will begin at noon. Dominic M. Calabro, President & CEO of Florida TaxWatch will be attending and will be available for interviews about the DPA and on the special legislative session on property taxes.

Florida TaxWatch is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan research institute that over its 28 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 Government. On the web at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org.