

REMINDER: TODAY'S ORLANDO EVENT IS 11:30a.m. TO 1 p.m. AT THE Grand Bohemian Hotel, 325 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando. **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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 13, 2007

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

ORLANDO — Florida TaxWatch is proud to recognize twenty-seven individual state employees and teams from the greater Orlando 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 Orlando 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 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 for their innovations and productivity improvements worth \$332 million in cost savings, cost avoidances and increased revenue for state government. Some winners from the Orlando area who are being honored at today's luncheon include:

**Kimberly Brown, Insurance Analyst
Department of Financial Services, Orlando**

Coordinating with five local, state and federal agencies, Kimberly Brown conducted a complex investigation of an unlicensed insurance adjusting firm that negotiated claim settlements for rental car accident victims, processed transfer and salvage of vehicle titles, and failed to remit approximately \$360,000 worth of taxes on vehicle transactions. Her efforts increased consumer awareness regarding title verification of vehicles purchased in the secondary market as "used" or "previously owned". For more information, please contact Kimberly Brown at (407) 835-4430 or kimberly.brown@fldfs.com. (Award 2007 DFS-002)

**Erin Cameron, Investigation Specialist
Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Orlando**

Erin Cameron completed 264 investigative products (three times her job expectation) between July 2005 and September 2006, ranking #1 among eight investigators in the Central Florida Region. Her participation in 20 successful consumer mediations resulted in an approximate \$30,000 cost avoidance of investigative and legal costs. One contractor case in Brevard County involved over 70 victims and resulted in more than \$400,000 being returned to all victims. For more information, please contact Daniel Hogan at (407) 317-7227 or daniel.hogan@dbpr.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DBPR-032)

**Centering Program
Orange County Health Department, Orlando**

This two-member team developed a model for maternity clients with high rates of limited or no prenatal care, and high rates of poor birth outcomes. Increased client participation of 7% and decreased low birth weights of 5.5% (compared to the traditional model of prenatal care) saved an estimated \$300,000 in medical costs. This program received national attention at the City Match Conference in September 2005 in Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, please contact Cheryl Taglia at (407) 836-2605 or Cheryl_Taglia@doh.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DOH-039)

**S&T Florida Quality Systems Certification Program Team
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Winter Haven**

This three-member team developed a program, at the request of the processed citrus industry, to dramatically change the manner in which citrus inspection had occurred since the 1940s. The Florida Quality Systems Certification Program replaces traditional end-line citrus inspection and meets Department of Citrus rules. The initial citrus processor participating in this program will realize a savings of more than \$1 million in fees during the first year. For more information, please contact Milton Rains at (863) 291-5820 or rainsm@doacs.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DACS-008)

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S&T Doug Carter, Park Manager
Department of Environmental Protection, Palm Coast

Doug Carter designed and coordinated the installation of radio communication systems in state parks throughout Florida. He developed equipment specifications to meet the requirements of each licensee and helped troubleshoot difficulties, then created software to streamline radio programming. Previously, parks lacked the ability to communicate on prescribed fires or during emergencies with other parks or agencies. Mr. Carter's saved \$67,600 worth of development costs plus incalculable amounts of staff time and costs for accidents and fires. For more information, please contact Melissa Tyrone (407) 884-2014 or Melissa.Tyrone.dep.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DEP-020)

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.

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:

- 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.