



NEWS

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

JACKSONVILLE — Florida TaxWatch is proud to recognize forty-one individual state employees and teams from the Jacksonville area today receiving recognition for a job well done from 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 noontime luncheon in downtown Jacksonville honoring the 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.

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.

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“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 Jacksonville area who are being honored at today’s luncheon include:

**Linda Davis, Financial Examiner Analyst
Department of Financial Services, Jacksonville**

While carrying a workload in excess of 100 cases versus a bureau average of 56 cases, Linda Davis investigated a licensee accused of selling life insurance policies under the guise that these policies were college fund savings plans. The agent’s license was suspended and he was required to produce \$10,000 in restitution payments to the victims. Ms. Davis’s investigation increased awareness by Florida consumers of college savings scams to help prevent others from becoming victims. For more information, please contact Susan Alexander at (904) 978-4843 or susan.alexander@fldfs.com. (Award 2007 DFS-003)

**Comprehensive Child Care Injury Prevention Project Team
Duval County Health Department and Department of Children and Families, Jacksonville**

Federal child care development funding was used by a three-person partnership between the Duval County Health Department and the Department of Children and Families to provide injury prevention training for 365 staff in 64 child care centers with more than 2,000 children for estimated added value of \$317,500. The training focused on safety procedures to help reduce disabilities and death. For more information, please contact Andrea Trzcinski at (904) 727-3417 or andrea_trzcinski@dcf.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DCF-033)

**Don Drury, Traffic Studies Specialist
Department of Transportation, Jacksonville**

Don Drury’s duties as a traffic studies specialist include writing work orders for small quantities of signs. Because of his signing expertise and familiarity with the geographical area, he was asked to design plans for 324 signs to help motorists in the Jacksonville area navigate a new alignment of US 17 and SR 228. To simplify the design process, Mr. Drury employed the unique approach of using a digital camera to take pictures of proposed locations, then designing signs onto the digital pictures. Produced 10 months ahead of schedule, Mr. Drury’s plans saved \$78,935. For more information, please contact Jim Scott at (904) 360-5630 or jim.scott@dot.state.fl.us. (Award 2007 DOT-055)

**James E. Patrick (Deceased)
Director of Restitution Enforcement Programs
State Attorney’s Office, Fourth Judicial Circuit, Jacksonville**

Jimmy Patrick had an exemplary career at the State Attorney’s Office from 1981 until his death in March 2007. He initiated a Municipal Ordinance Enforcement and Restitution program that has been copied in jurisdictions across the state. Handling 1,000 to 1,200 cases, in 2006 he recovered more than \$1 million worth of delinquent funds in Duval and Nassau Counties including sales taxes, unemployment fraud, rental theft, public assistance fraud, housing assistance fraud, and foster care fraud.

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Mr. Patrick's work was recognized by a 1992 Davis Productivity Award.

As reported in the *Florida Times-Union*, State Attorney Harry Shorstein called Mr. Patrick an "unbelievably productive" member of the office. "He not only was extremely effective, but he had a sense of humor and a personality that just didn't allow you to consider him disabled. He was truly an inspiration for all of us." He was described by the head of the city's Disabled Services Division as "the Rosa Parks for Jacksonville's disabled community. He made it a point to tell people there is nothing you can't do if you push hard enough and try hard enough."

Mr. Patrick, a quadriplegic since the age of 17, was hired by former State Attorney and Jacksonville Mayor Ed Austin after responding to Mr. Austin's challenge to complete his degree at the University of North Florida. He served on the Mayor's Disability Council from 1988 to 2001 and was its chairman in 1992. In 1989, the Jacksonville Bar Association presented Mr. Patrick with its Liberty Bell Award for service to the legal community by a non-lawyer.

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 has been honoring other award winners from across the state at other regional luncheon ceremonies including the next one scheduled as follows:

- 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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MEDIA NOTE: The actual awards presentation will begin at noon. The "2007 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards" magazine is posted on our website at www.FloridaTaxWatch.org. Or [Click here](#) to view the 2007 Prudential Financial Davis Productivity Awards magazine.

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

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.