

## NEWS RELEASE

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### TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP NAMES MEMBERS OF 2010 CEO DIRECT CLASS

TAMPA BAY, FL (June 23, 2010) – The Tampa Bay Partnership has named the members of its 2010 Class of CEO Direct. CEO Direct engages executive leaders within investor organizations on regional issues and initiatives in order to add leadership capacity toward achieving strategic regional goals. The program targets CEOs new to the market and senior-level management from our investor community. The 2010 Class includes 25 participants with representation from all parts of the region.

The 2010 CEO Direct class members include: [John Acosta, West Florida Area President, Regions Bank](#); [L. Ira Anderson, Partner, Crowe Horwath, LLP](#); [Melony Bell, Auditor/Candidate for Polk County Commission, State of Florida "DHSMV"](#); [Paul Bowdoin, Gulf Coast Area Manager, HDR Engineering, Inc.](#); [Peter Buczynsky, CEO, PharmaWorks](#); [Mark Catchur, Partner, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP](#); [David Christian, Vice President, Verizon](#); [J. Kenneth Coppedge, Regional President, BB&T](#); [Christopher Flack, Executive Director - External Relations, Progress Energy](#); [Richard Gehring, Growth Management Administrator, Pasco County](#); [Andrew Hall, Area Director, Governmental Affairs, AT&T](#); [David Hamilton, County Administrator, Hernando County](#); [Mary Ellen Hogan, Attorney & Co-Director, Public Policy Group, Bryant Miller Olive](#); [Larry Ingram, Managing Partner, Phelps Dunbar](#); [Anthony Jones, Director, Pinellas County Community Development/ Executive Director, Pinellas County Housing Finance Authority](#); [Jack Kolosky, Executive VP/COO, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute](#); [Robin MacDonald, Strategic Account Executive, BlueCross BlueShield of Florida](#); [Honorable Joe Meek, County Commissioner Citrus County](#); [Anthony Ong, Market President, Mercantile Bank](#); [Rick Piccolo, CEO, Sarasota - Bradenton Airport](#); [David Sessions, President, Willis A. Smith Construction, Inc.](#); [Byron Shinn, CPA, President & Managing Partner, Shinn & Company](#); [John Townsend, Vice President, T. Rowe Price Services](#); [John Wakefield, Senior Vice President, EcoAsset Solutions, LLC, a division of Lykes Bros., Inc.](#); and [Alexander Young, President/CEO, United Way of Sarasota County](#).

“Developing regional leadership is one of the Partnership’s core priorities and is the foundation of this organization. While investment dollars are vital, leadership is what will drive the success of our short and long-term objectives. CEO Direct is a program to ensure that we have the leaders engaged to reach our potential,” said Stuart Rogel, President & CEO of the Partnership.

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“As a past CEO Direct participant, I learned first hand about the economic engines that drive our region and the challenges we must address,” said Todd Timmerman, Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick and a member of the 2007 CEO Direct class. “I am honored to be leading this year’s program that includes a great group of leaders from across our eight county region.”

The 2010 Class held its kick off meeting at the 2010 Super Regional Leadership Conference where they met with the Partnership’s executive leadership and were able to network with regional leaders not only from Tampa Bay but also from Central Florida.

The CEO Direct program participants are chosen each spring through a nomination process. Participation is limited to 20-25 business and community leaders from around the region. Over the following months, participants attend a monthly program and tour (typically lasting 2 hours) of major regional economic engines that drive innovation, human capital, infrastructure and quality place – the four drivers of the Partnership’s Model For Prosperity. Throughout the year, we will educate and engage CEO Direct participants in critical regional economic development issues including the issues the Tampa Bay Partnership addresses and how; facilitate access between participants and the current, top leadership in the region; and foster opportunities for regional collaboration and strategic thinking.

**About Tampa Bay Partnership:**

The Tampa Bay Partnership is a CEO-led regional economic development organization with a mission to work with its partners to market the region nationally and internationally, to conduct regional research, and to coordinate efforts to influence business and government issues that impact economic growth and development. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership markets the entire eight-county, 6,515-square-mile area of west central Florida that includes Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota counties.

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