

NEWS RELEASE

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THE COMMUNITIES OF TAMPA BAY AWARDED \$113,000 INTERNATIONAL GRANT

TAMPA BAY, FL (March 28, 2007) – The Tampa Bay Partnership has been awarded a \$113,000 grant for international business development by Enterprise Florida's Selection Committee for the Florida International Business Expansion Initiative.

Working as a team, the Tampa Bay Partnership, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, Pinellas County Economic Development and the World Trade Center Tampa Bay crafted the successful regional proposal and winning the grant that significantly increases Tampa Bay's international efforts.

“Being awarded this grant is exactly the cooperative effort this region needs,” said Wachovia Regional President Roy McCraw who serves as Chair of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 and Vice Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership. “This demonstrates how working regionally can bring tangible benefits to individual communities.”

The grant will be used on four different community programs:

- A medical device-focused mission to Scotland
- An export development mission to China
- An inbound hosting program leveraging the 2007 District Export Council Annual Meeting in Tampa
- An educational outreach program that connect business with teachers to build and prepare a workforce-ready pipeline.

The planned programs will be coordinated regionally allowing all communities to participate and engage in these activities.

“We applaud the leadership of Enterprise Florida and the 2006 Florida Legislature for having the vision to create the Florida International Business Expansion Initiative,” said Bronson Thayer, International Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership. “These additional resources for international efforts are critical to the diversity of our region and Florida's economy.” Thayer added that the education of students and teachers in our area will be an important component of advancing the international efforts into the future.

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Partnership Awarded International Grant
Page 2

About Tampa Bay Partnership:

The Tampa Bay Partnership is the regional organization that brings the communities of Tampa Bay together to accelerate life's possibilities through advocacy, marketing, research and leadership. Founded in 1994, the Tampa Bay Partnership provides regional economic development for the metro areas of Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Lakeland, and Sarasota/Bradenton/Venice and the counties of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota.

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