

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Betty S. Carlin, Communications Manager
(813) 878-2208
bcarlin@tampabay.org

TAMPA BAY PARTNERSHIP NAMES D. DEWEY MITCHELL AS 2005-2006 CHAIR

Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism Awarded to Gov. Jeb Bush and Richard "Dick" Beard

TAMPA BAY, FL (November 21, 2005) –The Tampa Bay Partnership held its Annual Meeting and Community Update at the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, attended by over 475 business and community leaders on Friday, November 18, 2005. The meeting kicked off the Tampa Bay Vision21 regional visioning effort and included an election of officers.

Elected Chair for 2005-2006 is D. Dewey Mitchell, Broker/Owner, Prudential Tropical Realty, Vice Chair is Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, University of South Florida, and Roy J. McCraw Jr., as Secretary/Treasurer for the Partnership.

“We spent considerable time this past year working on short term and long term goals to keep Tampa Bay attractive, livable, and economically dynamic,” said Mitchell. “We must stay the course and continue to be vigilant in addressing the current and future needs of our communities.”

Keynote speaker Robert Grow, founding chair of Envision Utah and one of the foremost thought-leaders on regional visioning efforts, helped set the stage for the Partnership's regional visioning efforts, Tampa Bay Vision21 led by Dan Mahurin, CEO of SunTrust Bank.

Regional Award Winners Announced

The annual Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism was awarded by outgoing Chair Bill Habermeyer of Progress Energy to Governor Jeb Bush as an elected official and to Richard "Dick" Beard as a business leader.

- more -

Tampa Bay Partnership Annual Community Update Page 2

“Governor Bush's leadership in advancing economic development within the state of Florida has been fundamental to regional success,” said Bill Habermeyer. “He is Florida's most ardent advocate for supporting vibrant and diverse economic growth, creating a strong cycle for self sustaining success which benefits the communities of Tampa Bay.” A video of the Governor accepting the award at a Bay Area Legislative Delegation meeting in Tallahassee earlier in the month was shown at the event.

Richard A. "Dick" Beard was also recognized for his efforts in support of regionalism. Beard is owner and president of R.A. Beard Co., a Tampa real estate investment advisory firm, and was a founding partner of Paragon Group, a nationwide real estate development firm which developed various residential and commercial properties including Tampa's Bank of America Plaza. Known professionally as a "builder of large buildings," Beard is also known for his community leadership. He is currently chairman of the University of South Florida Board of Trustees, serves on the Board of Directors of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute and is also Chairman of Tampa Bay's 2009 Super Bowl Task Force.

“Dick is an outstanding community leader and businessman, and we are proud to recognize him with the Chair’s Cup for Excellence in Regionalism,” said Habermeyer. “His long-standing leadership, undying energy, and solid experience have added to the success of our diverse economy.”

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 seven-county, 4,200-square-mile area of west central Florida that includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota counties.

#