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Elaine Johnson Elected Chair of Regional Workforce Board

(JACKSONVILLE, FL) – Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida executive Elaine Johnson was elected as chair of WorkSource (First Coast Workforce Development, Inc.). Johnson has served on the WorkSource board of directors since 2001. She served as vice chair from 2009 – 2011. She was unanimously elected by the regional workforce development board, which represents six counties in Northeast Florida.

Johnson is a Principal with Navigy, a wholly owned subsidiary in the Diversified Business Unit of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, where she is responsible for business and alliance development, including mergers/acquisitions, strategic analysis, business consulting and strategic investments. Her previous roles with BCBSF included Senior Director of Business Innovation and Senior Director of HR.

Prior to joining BCBSF in 2003, Johnson served as a senior level business executive for over 25 years in Human Resources and Marketing/Business Development for national and international organizations. Her background includes strategy development, organizational development, and corporate mergers/acquisitions. She also served as an Instructor at the University of North Florida, teaching undergraduate courses in the Coggin College of Business.

Johnson earned an MBA from the University of North Florida where she was named *Outstanding College Alumna* in 2006 and *Outstanding Graduate Alumna* in 1999, and her BS in Management (*cum laude*) from the University of South Florida. She also received her national accreditation as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR).

Throughout her career, Johnson has been active in her community. She is a member of the Business Advisory Council for the Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida. She is past President of the Foundation Board of Governors for the Florida State College at Jacksonville, and currently serves on their Business Programs Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, and was a charter member of the First Coast Nurse Leader Consortium, which brought together academic and institutional nursing leaders to deal with the supply and development of RNs in the workforce.

“I am excited to assume leadership of this insightful group representing the public and private sectors,” said Elaine Johnson. “Education has been one of my lifelong passions and interests. This presents an opportunity to help advance the already strong regional partnership between education, economic development and workforce development. It’s critical that we work together to build a skilled workforce that will inspire companies - and talented individuals - to come, stay, and help our community grow.”

The WorkSource board of directors also elected St. Johns County business owner Ron Avery as vice chair and Eda Edgerton, CPA as Secretary / Treasurer. The officer terms began July 1, 2011.

WorkSource is responsible for providing a trained workforce to employers in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam & St. Johns Counties. WorkSource connects job seekers in transition with training and jobs and supports economic development through workforce preparation, playing a key role in attracting new business and helping companies expand in Northeast Florida. ###