



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Van Royal Elected Chair of Regional Workforce Board

Clay County businessman Van Royal was recently elected as chairman of WorkSource (First Coast Workforce Development, Inc.). Royal has served on the WorkSource board of directors since 1999. He was unanimously elected by the 33-member regional workforce development board, consisting primarily of private business owners. Royal previously served as the board's Secretary/Treasurer.

Royal grew up in Southwest Florida and graduated from Southern Methodist University, where he belonged to Phi Delta Theta fraternity, with a Bachelors of Business Administration. After working for Holiday Inns Inc., Ramada Inns and Club Corporation of America, Royal moved to Jacksonville in 1984 with Stein Mart, Inc. He went to work with Magnolia Point Golf and Country Club in 1987 as project manager and is currently a partner in Magnolia Point Realty Inc. and K & V Investment Group, Inc.

In addition to his service with WorkSource, Royal has also served as past chair of the board of visitors of the Thrasher Horne Center for the Performing Arts, and held a seat on the Clay County Chamber of Commerce board for eight years, serving as its president in 1999. He received the Green Cove Springs Business Council Special Recognition Award in 1996 and was Clay County Business Person of the Year in 1997. His other community leadership includes serving on the boards of the Green Cove Springs Business Council, the Northeast Florida Private Industry Council, and as honorary chair of the Teenwork program in Clay County.

The WorkSource board of directors also elected Elaine Johnson as Vice Chairman and Eda Edgerton as Secretary / Treasurer. Johnson is Senior Director of Marketing Performance for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. Edgerton is a Certified Public Account with a practice in Ponte Vedra. The two-year officer terms began July 1, 2009.

WorkSource, operated by First Coast Workforce Development, Inc., is responsible for providing a trained workforce to the more than 16,000 employers in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties. First Coast Workforce Development administers an annual budget of over \$14 million, and functions around several initiatives designed to connect job seekers in transition with training and employment and focus on economic development through workforce preparation. The organization plays a key role in attracting new business and helping current businesses expand in Northeast Florida. WorkSource also operates a Youth Council, which helps connect local youths with career information and opportunities.

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