



# ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA

*The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920*



## 2009 SESSION PRIORITIES



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## COUNCILS



The Councils of Associated Industries bring together unique sectors of the business community in order to develop and promote issues vital to those respective industries. The following pages represent the 2009 Legislative Agendas for each of the eight councils within AIF.

# Education, Economic & Workforce Development



In its second year of existence, the Florida Education, Economic and Workforce Development Council (EEWDC) has a new name, a new chair, and a new charge. We've added the word "economic" to the name to highlight the belief that education and workforce development are ultimately the base of the pyramid for economic development and sustainability. Amy Evancho, President of the Florida Economic Development Council, will serve as Chair of the EEWDC for 2009 with a desire to expand participation in the Council from business and economic development professionals across the state. AIF has charged the EEWDC to focus in 2009 on two priority issues: College and Career Readiness and Economic Development.

## Why College and Career Readiness?

"...a strong positive relationship exists between the amount and kind of high school coursework students take and their readiness for college. The more courses students take and the more challenging those courses, the more likely these students will be college ready and will persist to a college degree."

## Crisis at the Core; Preparing All Students for College

In short, up to 70 percent of the nation's college-bound high school graduates are not ready for college, according to common readiness standards (ACT, 2005). Additionally, Florida lags in several key measures of college and career readiness — most notably, our graduation requirements are not aligned with college and workplace expectations.

Commissioner Eric Smith and the State Board of Education have listed college and career readiness as one of six priorities to achieve a strategic vision for Florida. Focusing on career readiness will change the culture of our schools by raising the ceiling and raising the floor to better enable students for success in the 21st century.

## Council Position

The EEWDC supports efforts to establish linkages between business and the education sector as a way to develop programs and accountability measures across the entire education continuum with an emphasis on college and career readiness that will foster the development of an educated and prepared workforce.

## Education, Economic & Workforce Development Lobbyists:

<b>Peter Harris</b>	Workforce Development
<b>Stephen Shiver</b>	Economic Development
<b>Stacey Webb</b>	Education

## Council Priorities

A prepared workforce is critical to the long-term economic health of our state. Without proper preparation, Florida's students cannot be successful in college or the workplace. College and Career Readiness is the base of Florida's economic pyramid. AIF's EEWDC will place top priority on improving college and career readiness for Florida's students.

- Changes to Florida's graduation requirements to better align with college and career readiness
- Increased access to rigorous coursework
- An alignment of Florida's high school assessments with college and career readiness
- Reporting to parents and students on the assessment scores and readiness for college and career