



Commissioner of Education Eric Smith attends a meeting of the EEWDC in Tallahassee.

## Education, Economic & Workforce Development

**A**IF's Education, Economic, and Workforce Development Council (EEWDC) has been busy preparing for the 2010 legislative session. The three entities charged with education, economic, and workforce development in Florida were all undergoing strategic planning processes this fall and the Council hosted leaders from each as background for shaping the 2010 agenda.

Chris Hart, who serves as president of Workforce Florida, Inc. (WFI) and was recently tapped by Gov. Crist to head his Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development, along with Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) Executive Director Cynthia Lorenzo visited with the Council to discuss workforce development issues. Hart previewed the WFI strategic planning process, which focused on building a talent supply chain in Florida. Director Lorenzo provided an update on AWI priorities from early learning initiatives to serving record number of unemployed Floridians in this recession.

The EEWDC also received from Education Commissioner Eric Smith an update on the Next Generation Strategic Plan, which was nearing adoption by the State Board of Education. At the same meeting, John Adams, CEO of Enterprise Florida, updated the Council on the Enterprise Florida Roadmap for Florida's Future process and early findings.

After hearing input from leaders in education, workforce, and economic development, the AIF EEWDC met to begin shaping their legislative agenda for 2010. The discussion was framed around the three major areas within the Council's name — education, economic development and workforce development — with a focus on capitalizing on the common themes from the strategic planning processes that took place over the summer and fall months.

### 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 system. An emphasis on college and career readiness will foster the development of an educated and prepared workforce.

Chair: Amy Evancho

Lobbyists:

Peter Harris

Stephen Shiver

Stacey Webb

### Council Priorities

**T**he preliminary agenda centered on the following priorities:

#### Education

- Continue focus on college and career readiness.
- Support increased high school graduation requirements.
- Support foundational skills upgrade.
- Increase use of technology in public schools.
- Increase business involvement with education, particularly with the alignment of needs and outcomes and increasing the quality and professionalism of educational and instructional leaders.

#### Workforce Development

- Support short term programs that provide training and skills upgrade.
- Support programs that provide connection of workforce training to the industries targeted for economic development.

#### Economic Development

- Support state-funded incentives and economic development tools.
- Support long-term sustainability of economic development in Florida.