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Kelly Smallridge Selected to Represent Palm Beach County in the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars Caucus System *Securing Florida's Future through Statewide Strategic Planning*



West Palm Beach, FL. (April 3, 2012) – The Florida Chamber Foundation announced that Kelly Smallridge, CEO & President of the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, has been selected to serve on their Six Pillars Caucus System™ as a representative for their community. Ms. Smallridge will join more than 400 leaders from across the state on the Innovation and Economic Development Caucus to help craft the first-ever, statewide strategic plan.

The Florida Chamber Foundation's Six Pillars Caucus System is comprised of more than 400 top business leaders and issue experts from around the state. They are the guiding force in the development of the first-ever, statewide, 20-year strategic plan toward a future economy that includes high-paying jobs, global competitiveness and vibrant communities. The first iteration of this plan was released in 2011.

The Six Pillars is a product of years of collaboration and research by the Foundation that identifies the critical factors determining Florida's future: 1) Talent Supply and Education, 2) Innovation and Economic Development, 3) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, 4) Business Climate and Competitiveness, 5) Civic and Governance Systems, and 6) Quality of Life and Quality Places.

Ms. Smallridge serves as president and CEO and oversees all operations of the Business Development Board which is one of only two Accredited Economic Development Boards in the State of Florida. Under her leadership, the BDB has won numerous awards for its work in recruiting and expanding companies to Palm Beach County and is credited with facilitating two of the world's largest bioscience organizations to the state: The Scripps Research Institute from San Diego and the Max Planck Society from Germany.

"I'm delighted to be a part of this diverse group of statewide professionals who will work together to develop the first-ever, 20-year strategic plan for Florida," said Smallridge. "The group's collective action will help ensure that Florida's economy will be prosperous and vibrant well into the future."

A county or region that adopts the Six Pillars™ as the framework for developing and communicating their local strategic plans are designated a Six Pillars Community as part of the Six Pillars Communities™ program. In addition to the benefits of participating in a common agenda, the local voices become a

chorus for change when their own strategic visions provide input to the crafting of the statewide strategic plan via the Six Pillars Caucus System.

Each county or region that has formally adopted the Six Pillars framework will have the opportunity to appoint local representatives (aligned with the Six Pillars) to the Caucus System to ensure local strategic plans inform the statewide planning process. Ms. Smallridge will serve on the Innovation and Economic Development Caucus as an ambassador for Palm Beach County to ensure their local Six Pillars efforts continue to inform the statewide strategic planning process.

“The Foundation looks forward to working along-side these thought leaders to refine goals, strategies and tactics that will enhance the state’s Six Pillars 20-year Strategic Plan for prosperity,” said Dr. Dale A. Brill, President of the Florida Chamber Foundation.

Others interested in getting involved in the discussion are encouraged to join the Six Pillars collaborative website. This site is designed to foster discussions surrounding the Six Pillars and will help formulate the recommendations for the strategic plan. The online community is a way to engage in discussions through sharing, evaluating and critiquing of ideas and issues. Those interested should email FloridaSixPillars@FLFoundation.org for an invitation to the site.

About the Florida Chamber Foundation: The Florida Chamber Foundation is a business-led, problem-solver and research organization, working in partnership with state business leaders to promote a vibrant Florida economy. The Foundation’s “Six Pillars” serve as a visioning platform for moving Florida forward. The Foundation’s work focuses on: 1) Talent Supply and Education, 2) Innovation and Economic Development, 3) Infrastructure and Growth Leadership, 4) Business Climate and Competitiveness, 5) Civic and Governance Systems, and 6) Quality of Life and Quality Places. Founded in 1968, the Foundation is a critical voice for improving the state’s pro-business climate to enable Florida to grow and prosper. For more information, visit www.FLFoundation.org.

About the BDB: The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County is the official public/private economic development organization for Palm Beach County and Enterprise Florida. Founded in 1982 as a not-for-profit corporation, our primary purpose is to attract and retain new industry, business investment, high quality jobs and workforce development through corporate relocations, expansions and international trade. During the past five years, the BDB has assisted companies that have created more than 7,700 direct jobs with average salaries greater than \$55,400, resulting in more than \$355 million in capital investment to Palm Beach County and an economic impact that exceeds \$1.8 billion. Additional information can be found at the BDB’s Web site, BDB.org.

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