

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Bencie Bestowed Leadership Award***

(SARASOTA)- On September 29, 2011, Jennifer Bencie, MD, MSA, with the Manatee County Department of Health, was recognized during the annual meeting of Suncoast Workforce for her vision. As chairwoman of the Suncoast Workforce Bi-County Healthcare Committee, she brought together Manatee and Sarasota County leaders in her industry to solve problems and to identify this area's unique strengths to ultimately become a region recognized for world-class healthcare. As a consensus builder, she worked toward this goal by developing partnerships between economic development organizations, educational institutions, and business leaders in the healthcare industry with this goal in mind.

Through a grant awarded by Workforce Florida, and with the direction of the Bi-County Healthcare Committee, Suncoast Workforce exceeded the grant deliverables by completing a Needs Assessment based on future vacancies, the role of technology and the occupational training requests of healthcare providers in the area. This study helped to identify the training gaps and training that was needed but not offered in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

To address the training gaps, through various training providers, over 100 professionals were trained in areas from electronic medical records to sexual assault nurse examiner certification. In addition, 30 new employees were recruited into the healthcare field.

Curriculums were also develop that included Leadership Development; and Communications and Professionalism. Theses curriculums have since been designed, piloted and implemented on the Suncoast. The next steps for the Bi-County Healthcare Committee are being developed.

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*Mission: To recruit, train, and retain talent for the Suncoast.*