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DUVAL COUNTY JOB OPPORTUNITY BANK PRESENTS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Clara White Mission and FCCJ were honored

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 22, 2008 – The Duval County Job Opportunity Bank awarded the Clara White Mission and the Florida Community College of Jacksonville (FCCJ) with grant money for their education and training programs. Mayor Peyton, Council Member Hyde and Dr. Edythe M. Abudllah, Chair of the Job Bank Board, also participated in the award presentation.

In 2005, Council Member Kevin Hyde sponsored the establishment of the Duval County Job Opportunity Bank. The Bank is a permanent trust fund of the city that is used to provide grants and other forms of financial assistance to institutions that help residents of Duval County develop and hone their job skills. The Clara White Mission and the Florida Community College of Jacksonville (FCCJ) applied for this grant program and are being awarded for their education and training efforts.

“The Bank’s goal is to ensure that our citizens are trained for and are employed in high-wage, highly-skilled jobs in Duval County,” said Mayor Peyton. “I am pleased that the Clara White Mission and FCCJ have taken advantage of the opportunities of the Job Bank and are providing education and training to our local residents.”

Council Member Hyde noted that “the fund is a perfect example of a community investing in itself. No taxpayer dollars are being used. Private companies have contributed to the Job Bank.”

The Job Opportunity Bank Board established a grant program through which experienced entities may apply for and receive funds to provide education and training to the populations identified in the Ordinance for jobs in the industries targeted by the Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC).

“The key to a strong and stable economy is an educated and skilled workforce,” said Dr. Edythe M. Abdullah, Chair of the Job Opportunity Bank Board. “The Duval County Job Opportunity Board takes its role of distributing these funds to support workforce and economic development very seriously. We’re very proud of the selections we’ve made and the impact the funds will have on the citizens of Jacksonville.”

This exciting new initiative will further propel the city and its citizens to new heights of success and help Jacksonville remain competitive in the growing global economy.

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