



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Services Partnership Will Offer Extended Resources to Cape Coral Workforce

CAPE CORAL, Fla. (Feb. 1, 2008) – The City of Cape Coral has launched an initiative to provide rent-free office and classroom space to Business Industry Services (BIS), a state-funded agency implemented through the Lee County School District. BIS offers business training courses to local employers and employees.

Until recently, BIS offered its services through High Tech North. When the facilities at High Tech North became unavailable, the Cape Coral Economic Development Office proposed that BIS utilize half of a modular unit occupied by Florida Gulf Coast University's Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which also occupies the city space rent-free. The SBDC offers free advice and resources to small businesses that are just starting out, trying to expand or hoping to grow. The SBDC also provides business courses for a nominal fee.

The Cape Coral City Council approved the BIS move Jan. 28, with the hopes of creating a one-stop-shop for business assistance resources.

“BIS will add value to the business services already offered at the facility through SBDC,” said Cape Coral Economic Development Director Mike Jackson. “The city’s business community and workforce will benefit from a broad spectrum of educational and counseling expertise offered in one centralized location.”

Cape Coral is the fourth fastest growing city in the United States and the third largest geographically in Florida at 115 square miles. Inc. Magazine ranked the Cape Coral-Fort Myers No. 1 in its 2007 list of the best mid-sized cities for doing business. The Cape Coral Economic Development Office is available to assist owners in establishing a successful business, provide information on incentives, property location and to offer direction as they navigate through the relocation and construction process. For more information, call (239) 574-0444 or toll free (866) 573-3089.

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