



RON DeSANTIS
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

WHEREAS, due to Governor DeSantis' decisive leadership, Florida has the highest number of new business formations in the nation with 2.8 million since 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's blueprint creates a longstanding plan for economic success that attracts businesses to our competitive industries and fuels our talent pipeline to meet workforce needs; and

WHEREAS, Florida's 1.5 trillion-dollar economy is the 14th largest in the world—bigger than those of The Netherlands and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to more than 22 million residents and is now the 3rd most populous U.S. state with one of the fastest growing economies, gaining 1 million workforce participants since 2020; and

WHEREAS, since 2019, more than \$191 million has been awarded through the Job Growth Grant Fund, making strategic investments in infrastructure that build stronger communities and industries and support workforce training across the state; and

WHEREAS, for the second year in a row LightCast ranks Florida as the #1 state in the nation for attracting and developing a talented workforce; and

WHEREAS, according to all three credit rating agencies, Florida has the highest AAA rating; and

WHEREAS, visitation to Florida continues to rise, setting a record for the number of visitors to Florida in the third quarter of a year with an estimated total of 35.1 million visitors between July and September 2023; and

WHEREAS, U.S News & World Report has named Florida the #1 state in the country for higher education for the seventh year in a row and the most affordable place to obtain a 2-year or 4-year degree in the nation; and

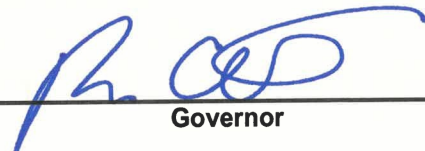
WHEREAS, this historic growth within our state creates an immense opportunity for Florida's economy to continue expanding while ensuring we have highly-skilled individuals to grow into our competitive industries; and

WHEREAS, Florida Economic Development Week is an event created by the Florida Economic Development Council in partnership with CareerSource Florida, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, Visit Florida, Space Florida, the Florida Opportunity Fund, FloridaMakes, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida Council of 100 to celebrate the achievements of economic, workforce and community development practitioners throughout Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing January 22 - 25, 2024, as *Florida Economic Development Week*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 22nd day of January, in the year two thousand twenty-four.




Governor