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NEWS RELEASE

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RAMS JUMPSTART receives STATE APPROVAL

On September 30, 2004, the Florida State Department of Education approved JumpStart as a state-wide Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program (P-065).

JumpStart consists of discipline-based (electrical, plumbing and structured cable) classroom training and six (6) months OJT. All students receive extensive safety training, hand and power tools, personal protective equipment, mentoring, and follow-up classroom training over the 180 day program. Best of all, they have a high demand job that cannot be exported! More than a hundred individuals have passed through the JumpStart training program in its first 7 months.

Barbara K. Griffin of the Agency for Workforce Innovation writes - "It is encouraging to see innovative programs such as yours providing services and assistance that put Floridians to work."

Construction companies are strapped for skilled labor. Many have been forced to import the labor, creating a variety of problems ranging from safety to undocumented or illegal workers. Programs like JumpStart are needed to attract young diversified new talent to a rapidly aging industry.

According to Jon Goins, Area V Manager, for the Florida Department of Education Division of Workforce Development, "JumpStart is exactly what is needed in this country and specifically in this state. Apprenticeship in the trades can provide careers and incomes on par with those available to college graduates. JumpStart will help develop the next generation of severely needed trade professionals, responsible for building Florida's future."

JumpStart programs will be made available to additional southern states in 2005 according to H. J. (Skip) Mathews, RAMS President.

Program inquiries – should be directed to Matt Sargent, at (800) 577-1808.
