



NEWS RELEASE

Date: December 13, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Teeple
(904) 279-0880

December 14th Event:

The Northeast Florida Regional Council announces the First Coast Consortium, and the Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards to be accepted by Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll and Others

First Coast Vision, a vision for growth and development in the Northeast Florida Region, which includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties, has served as a catalyst for an unprecedented level of Regional cooperation, will be announced on December 14th at 6pm at the annual Regional Community Institute (RCI) Social event, held in conjunction with the Northeast Florida Regional Council's (NEFRC) Elected Officials Reception. Elaine Brown will announce that First Coast Consortium will allow for a new level of cooperation of Regional organizations and others to achieve a better future for Northeast Florida.

Following the RCI activities, at 7pm, WJCT's Melissa Ross will emcee the eleventh **NEFRC Annual Elected Officials Reception and Regional Leadership Awards**. The NEFRC takes great pride in showcasing the remarkable achievements of the Northeast Florida Region. This year, the distinguished group of awardees will be headlined by the Lieutenant Governor, who has accepted the invitation to accept in person. The awardees are:

Regional Leadership Award: **Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll**

Regional Excellence in Economic Development and Tourism: **Cathy Chambers, Vice President of Business Development and Marketing for JaxUSA, and Omni Hotel and Resorts, Amelia Island**

Regional Excellence in Education: **ULI North Florida's UrbanPlan**

Regional Excellence in Transportation: **Jacksonville Transportation Authority's Regional Mobility Coalition**

Regional Excellence in Public Safety: **Sheriff Donald Fleming of Flagler County**

Regional Excellence in Affordable Housing: **Elaine Spencer, Director, HUD Jacksonville Office**

Regional Excellence in Planning and Growth Management: **City of Fernandina Planning Department and Planning Advisory Board**

Regional Quality of Life: **John Edwards, Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Community Action Agency**

Regional Excellence in Environmental Stewardship: **Putnam County Nine-Mile Swamp/Georgetown Riverfront Park**

Regional Special Achievement: **Mayor Bob Page of Green Cove Springs**

These activities will take place:

**Wednesday, December 14th
University Center at the University of North Florida
Reception at 5:30 p.m., dinner/awards program at 7:00 p.m.**

This marks the eleventh year that the Awards Ceremony will be held in conjunction with a reception honoring elected officials throughout the Region. We commend the achievements of First Coast Vision and the contributions of this year's award winners!

For more information on the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Annual Awards Program, please contact Brian Teeple at bteeple@nefrc.org or (904) 279-0880.

###