

# TODAY'S PANEL

SOUTHWEST-CENTRAL FLORIDA CORRIDOR  
Task Force Meeting #4 • February 13, 2020



**BETH CICHETTI**  
CEcD, Founder, Beth Kirkland Consulting, LLC

Beth is the founder and principal of Beth Kirkland Consulting, LLC, an economic and business development consulting and management services firm. Beth Kirkland Consulting provides management services and economic development expertise for communities and professional associations, such as the Gadsden County Development Council and the Florida Economic Development Council. Additionally, the firm works with civil and architectural professional services firms supporting commercial and industrial business development and workforce training. Beth has over 25 years of economic, community and workforce development experience in defense, healthcare, information technology, transportation and logistics, and advanced manufacturing. Beth was 2012-13 Chair of the Florida Economic Development Council and the current Executive Director of CareerSource Capital Region.



**MANDY HINES**  
County Administrator, DeSoto County

Mandy has worked in local government for the past 16 years, most of which has been in service to DeSoto County. Prior to being appointed County Administrator, she served many years as the County Coordinator where she worked in areas of senior management and project management for County Administration with duties ranging from state legislative affairs, economic development, tourism, housing and grant project administration. Mrs. Hines spent several years as a Board member and served as Chair of Florida's Heartland REDI board, known today as "FHERO", which is a multi-county regional economic development organization, and has served several terms on the Heartland Career Source Board. She has also served as treasurer of the Heartland Library Cooperative and is actively involved with the Small County Coalition and the Florida Association of Counties County Manager program. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from FSU and is passionate about local government service.



**BRUCE LYON**  
President, Winter Haven Economic Development Council

Bruce is a 20+ year veteran in community and economic development with experience in 20 states across the US creating job opportunities and bringing new economic value to both urban and rural communities. By assisting communities, companies and real estate developers to overcome economic, regulatory and political challenges, he has helped enable hundreds of millions in new investments, establish thousands of new jobs and thousands of new affordable and market-rate housing units in communities where opportunities are sometimes challenging to identify. Bruce currently brings his vision and experience to Winter Haven, FL, which has become one of the fastest growing communities in the region over the past five years with over 3,000 new homes constructed and job expansion occurring across Winter Haven's diverse industry sectors including manufacturing/logistics, agri-tech, IT, aviation, healthcare and entertainment/hospitality. Bruce currently chairs the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Affordable Housing Advisory Council and has served on various transportation-related advisory committees.



**JOE PATERNO**  
Executive Director for the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc.

Joe is the Executive Director for the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board, Inc., Region 24 where he oversees the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, One Stop Career Centers, Welfare Transition and other state and local initiatives. Prior to that appointment he served as the Executive Director for the Southwest Florida Private Industry Council. He came to Southwest Florida from Kentucky, where he oversaw an employment and training program in a ninety-two county area.