

The Florida Women's Business Center Receives SunTrust's Lighting the Way Award



Pictured left right: Manny Perdomo, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, South Florida Division, SunTrust Bank; Seabron A. Smith, Executive Director, Center for Technology, Enterprise and Development, Inc.; Victoria A. Hughes, Director, Florida Women's Business Center; Victoria M. Rixon, Division Executive, Private Wealth Management, SunTrust Bank

On Wednesday, October 5, the SunTrust Foundation presented The Florida Women's Business Center with its prestigious inaugural Lighting the Way Award. The Florida Women's Business Center ("FLWBC") is a program of The Center for Technology, Enterprise & Development, Inc., a 501c non-profit organization serving South Florida communities for more than 20 years. The award, which included a \$50,000 grant, recognizes non-profit organizations for their support of sustainable financial well-being initiatives.

"We are honored and thrilled to be recognized for the work FLWBC is doing throughout communities in South Florida," said Seabron A. Smith, TED Center Executive Director. "Our commitment to assist women in business and those who desire to start a business achieve their goals and expand their businesses allows us to fulfill our mission to empower individuals, improve communities and development meaningful lives, and this award helps us continue that mission."

"The FLWBC Center was selected for the positive impact it is making in helping women start and run successful businesses," said Manny Perdomo, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, South Florida Division.

The FLWBC is a collaborative partner of the US Small Business Administration and is one of its 114 national Women's Business Centers and is hosted by the Center for Technology, Enterprise & Development, Inc. (The Ted Center), dedicated to assisting women in achieving their dreams by helping them expand, run, and start successful businesses. The FLWBC's primary objectives are to provide; training, counseling, mentoring, resources, referrals, and support to women entrepreneurs. The FLWBC recognizes that women-owned businesses are a critical component to economic recovery and a necessary cornerstone to the building of Florida's future.

About the SunTrust Foundation

The SunTrust Foundation is dedicated to the company's purpose of Lighting the Way to Financial Well-Being by engaging organizations to advance financial confidence. Grants and activities focus primarily on financial empowerment, but also include education, health and human services, civic improvement and cultural growth. The SunTrust Foundation supports American Red Cross disaster relief efforts and contributes as a United Way Global Corporate Leader. Established in 2008, the SunTrust Foundation has proudly provided grants totaling more than \$100 million throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.