

Change Management Expert Dr. Mark DeVolder Helps Prepare Florida for the Final Space Shuttle Launch

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/press/space-shuttle-launch,1523221.html>

NASA and the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast have engaged change management expert Dr. Mark DeVolder as part of their transition preparation for the ending of the Space Shuttle program. DeVolder delivered a message of hope combined with cutting edge business strategies to navigate the transitions, become change ready and transform the Space Coast economy.

(PRWEB) October 29, 2010 -- In 2004, President Bush announced the retirement of the Space Shuttle Program in 2010. As a result, there is an anticipated direct loss of 7,000 highly-paid jobs and an indirect loss of more than 23,000 jobs. The knowledge pool represented by these workers has often been described as a National Treasure. To help ensure that the workforce remains intact during the transition from the shuttle program to new commercial opportunities, the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast has developed a "Space Transition Public Relations Strategy."

Change management expert and professional speaker Dr. Mark DeVolder was the keynote speaker at the EDC's October annual meeting at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place. DeVolder is an author and specialist in navigating management changes and business transformations. Earlier this year he received the prestigious "Top 5 Speaker Award in Change Management, USA." He speaks frequently the topics of change management, employee engagement and leadership.

DeVolder delivered a message of hope combined with cutting edge business strategies to navigate the transitions, become change ready and transform the Space Coast economy. He spoke about the importance of not just preparing for the change, but for the transitions, and offered a roadmap through the maze of change. He provided tools to help people accept the change and let go of the past, and cautioned against letting nostalgia keep them from effectively addressing the current challenges. His suggested alternative was to focus on responding to new opportunities, and to be proactive and innovative in order to create positive change responses. He specifically encouraged leaders to stay personally engaged while constantly engaging others throughout the change process.

Brevard County is home to the Kennedy Space Center. In addition to the retirement of the space shuttle program, the housing bust hit Florida very hard along with the loss of related construction jobs. In response, the Economic Development Commission is responding to opportunities for the future focusing on growth in other high-tech sectors, renewable energy, particularly solar, while continuing to support the core industries of aerospace and aviation, advanced communications, electronics, homeland security-national defence and emerging technologies.

Dr. Mark DeVolder is the author of the book, *Get Engaged: A Practical Guide to Employee Engagement*.