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### **Summit Aims to Engage Community Members in Jumpstarting Local Economy**

*organizers seek nominations for participation through September 8*

Sarasota, FL (July 16, 2008) – Nominations are being accepted for participation in Re-Energizing Our Local Economy (ROLE), a collaborative summit aimed at reaching community agreement on a set of actions that will help jumpstart the local economy. The ROLE summit will be held October 3, 2008, 7:45 am. – 2:30 p.m. at the Gulf Coast Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota. Individuals interested in participating or nominating others are encouraged to visit [www.scopexcel.com](http://www.scopexcel.com) by September 8, 2008. The fee for selected attendees is \$25 and includes lunch.

Working together, summit attendees will identify actions that can produce positive outcomes for the local economy. Discussion will focus on four issues that provide an opportunity for measurable and actionable improvements to the local economy. The issues are: job creation, business support, government/community collaboration and business climate.

The summit, coordinated by Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE), is a collaborative effort of public and private entities including: AM Engineering, City of North Port, City of Sarasota, Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota Convention & Visitors Bureau and Sarasota County Government.

“The summit provides an opportunity for community members to play an active role in revitalizing a healthy economy for Sarasota County,” said Tim Dutton, executive director of SCOPE. “Our hope is that diverse participants will develop unique and actionable ways to improve the economy in the short-term and then use the momentum created by the summit to make their ideas come to fruition.”

Nominees selected for participation will be those who are likely to become catalysts for community action to implement the changes endorsed by the summit. Organizers seek a balanced group of participants who represent diverse facets of the Sarasota County community including: business, municipal, education, faith-based, environmental, neighborhood and civic groups.

A nomination form and more information about the Re-Energizing Our Local Economy summit is available at [www.scopexcel.org/rolesummit](http://www.scopexcel.org/rolesummit) or by contacting SCOPE at (941) 365-8751.