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DOH-PINELLAS RECOGNIZES RAYMOND JAMES FOR IMPLEMENTING A TOBACCO-FREE WORKPLACE IN ST. PETERSBURG



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Raymond James, a leading diversified financial services company, is encouraging associates to be happier and healthier in the workplace. On April 1, Raymond James' St. Petersburg campus became tobacco free. The firm worked closely with the Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County's (DOH-Pinellas) Tobacco Prevention Program for assistance in making the change.

"Public health is built upon partnerships with community members – including business entities, such as Raymond James," said Interim Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip. "We are thrilled to see that more businesses, educational institutions and housing complexes are becoming tobacco free which will lead to overall improved health in the community."

While the majority of Raymond James associates attested they do not use tobacco products, those who do can elect to receive ongoing cessation support, programs and resources at no cost to them.

"Establishing a tobacco free campus is one component of our overall wellness strategy we're implementing over the next few years," says Chief Human Resources Officer Stan Duncan. "This change is simply in the best interest of our associates and their health."

Tobacco Free Florida's resources are free and easy to access. For more information, please visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or call 1-877-U-CAN NOW (1-877-822-6669).

"Recognizing employee health and well-being is an important component of any company's success," said Dr. Ulyee Choe, DOH-Pinellas' director. "We applaud companies like Raymond James who take the initiative to implement a tobacco-free environment."

Businesses that need assistance to become tobacco-free can call DOH-Pinellas's tobacco staff at (727) 588-4040, ext. 3170.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to www.PinellasHealth.com or call (727) 824-6900.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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About Tobacco Free Florida

The department's Tobacco Free Florida campaign is a statewide cessation and prevention campaign funded by Florida's tobacco settlement fund. Tobacco users interested in quitting are encouraged to use one of the state's free resources. Since 2007, more than 137,000 Floridians have successfully quit, using one of these free services. To learn more about Tobacco Free Florida and the state's free quit resources, visit www.tobaccofreeflorida.com or follow the campaign on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TobaccoFreeFlorida or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/tobaccofreefla.