



## Chairman's Message Winter 2006

On behalf of the Sterling staff, I would like to wish everyone well as we soar into 2006! January and February have already started off with tremendous activity scheduled around the Sterling assessment processes and I would like to thank each of our examiners for the hard work that they are undertaking as we move into the peak of our assessment season.

Consensus meetings for the Governor's Sterling Award, Challenge and Navigator are all underway. Close to 20 teams have received their applications and are busy at work in preparing for site visits that will be taking place in late February, March and through mid April. The assessment process will culminate with recognition taking place at our Governor's Sterling Award Banquet on Friday, June 2, 2006. This is a gala evening filled with wonderful entertainment and recognition. Look forward to seeing you there.

The planning for 2006 Conference is complete and exceeded our goals in attracting new companies and educational sessions. The online registration form is available on our web page and to date over 300 people have already registered for the conference. This year's conference looks to be one our best ones yet and we are excited about the number of new organizations that we have as presenters including Dell, Honda, Lexus, SeaWorld of Florida, and Starbucks. The 2006 Conference will truly be your blueprint for achieving world-class results.

On a more personal note, I would like to offer my thanks to a wonderful staff. Perry Dollinger, Dione Geiger, Lauren Keen, Abby Richter, Jan Sargent, Pat Sciarappa and Jim Sherlock all do a great job of keeping Sterling focused around the work that makes us successful. In this competitive environment, it can be challenging to keep such a dedicated and hard working group working to support our mission to improve the quality of life and competitive edge for the state of Florida. Thanks to each of these wonderful people for keeping Sterling focused on serving our customers and truly exemplifying the best of our workforce.

In closing, I again would like to acknowledge the hard work of our close to 400 volunteers. They are the cornerstone of the Florida Sterling Council and we genuinely appreciate their time and commitment to helping us to make Florida a state of excellence. Thank you!

I'll look forward to seeing you at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, from May 30 – June 2, 2006.

Thank you!

John A. Pieno  
Chairman  
Florida Sterling Council

"Enhancing Florida's competitive edge and quality of life through promotion, assessment, and recognition of performance excellence."