



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE Winter 2008

On behalf of the Sterling staff, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year as we move into 2008! January has already started off with substantial activity scheduled around the Sterling assessment processes. I want to personally acknowledge and thank each of our Examiners for the hard work that they are undertaking as we move into the height of our assessment season.

Consensus meetings for the Governor's Sterling Award are also underway. All of our Governor's Sterling Award applicant teams have received their applications and are busy at work in preparing for consensus meetings and site visits that will be taking place in late February and March. Our Challenge teams will be receiving their applications between January and February and will conduct their site visits prior to the Conference which is held in May. The assessment process will culminate with recognition of these organizations at our Governor's Sterling Award Banquet on Friday, May 30, 2008. This gala evening will be filled with wonderful entertainment and recognition, and I truly look forward to seeing you there.

The planning for 2008 Conference is in full gear, and I am proud to announce that the Sterling Council exceeded our goals in attracting new companies and educational sessions which will meet our demands for excellence and learning. This year's conference looks to be one of our best yet. We are excited about the number of new presenters we have who represent such organizations as Citigroup, Harris Corporation, Proctor & Gamble, SeaWorld, Shands Hospital, and Xerox who will assist our attendees in maximizing their competitive advantage. To date, over 250 people have already registered for the conference and have taken advantage of our early registration discounts. The registration form is available on our website, [www.floridasterling.com](http://www.floridasterling.com).

On a more personal note, I would like to offer my thanks to a wonderful staff who has worked so diligently to make this year the best thus far. Avan Aziz, Perry Dollinger, Dione Geiger, Jennifer Holmes, Lauren Keen, Pat Sciarappa, Jim Sherlock, and Angela Willis-Clay all do a great job of keeping Sterling focused on our strategic priorities. In this competitive environment, Sterling is fortunate to have such a dedicated and hard working group supporting our mission to improve the quality of life and competitive edge for the state of Florida. Thanks to each of these wonderful people for making sure that the Florida Sterling Council maintains our state of excellence.

I would be remiss if I missed this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the over 400 volunteers for their hard work. They are the foundation of the Florida Sterling Council and we genuinely appreciate their time and commitment to helping us continue our success as we celebrate 16 years of performance excellence.

Thank you!

I look forward to seeing you at the JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, from May 27 through May 30, 2008.

Sincerely,

John A. Pieno, Chairman  
Florida Sterling Council

**STERLING**  
THE *Competitive* ADVANTAGE