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### **Get the Bottom Line on Government Purchasing**

Is corruption in South Florida local governments the result of systemic failures or personal greed? That's one of many questions facing participants in a daylong conference sponsored by the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and Florida Atlantic University. "Ethics and Accountability in Public Procurement" will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2010, in the Liberal Arts Building on FAU's Davie Campus, 2912 College Avenue.

The keynote speaker, Stephanie Creed, is known nationally for uncovering the embezzlement of tens of thousands of dollars that led to the arrest of her former boss, the county comptroller. The purchasing department manager for Pulaski County in Little Rock, Arkansas, also serves as second vice president of the National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP), which is offering training credits for professionals who attend the conference.

Panel discussions will feature experts who buy and sell in the public arena, academic specialists from FAU's Public Procurement Research Center (including its director, Dr. Clifford McCue) and representatives of watchdog agencies that oversee the process, including Assistant Miami-Dade State Attorney Joe Centorino, and both the chair and executive director of the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission, Kerry Rosenthal and Robert Meyers. Other participants include veteran lobbyist Ron Book and the immediate past president of the NIGP, Kirk Buffington – Fort Lauderdale's Procurement Director.

Topics for discussion include the growing consideration of environmentally friendly aspects of public bidding, the advantages and disadvantages of local preference, public-private partnerships, and the evolving best practices for efficiency, accountability and transparency in government contracting.

The conference is limited to 135 registrants. The \$35 fee includes morning refreshments, lunch and all materials. For more information and registration, log on to [www.fau.edu/fiog](http://www.fau.edu/fiog) or call 561-297-3749.

*The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education and outreach, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.*

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