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## **Campbell Selected as Chairman of State Festival and Events Committee**

By Tony Britt

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Harvey Campbell, Columbia County Tourist Development Council executive director, has been named the 2009-2010 Chairman of the Florida Festivals and Events Association. The FFEA, the state's primary professional organization for producers, vendors, and sponsors of festivals, fairs and special events made the announcement last month.

"I've been on the board for a number of years and have served in all of the officer positions and I was proud to be elected chairman this year," Campbell said. "FFEA is the premier association for counties, towns and organizations that do festivals and special events around the state."

The FFEA's mission is to promote and strengthen the festival, event and fair industry in Florida through education, networking, dissemination of information and the cultivation of high standards for the industry.

Although Campbell has served with the group for more than six years, the recent election marked the first time he has been selected as the organization's leader. Campbell said he hopes his experience as the Suwannee River Valley Marketing Group chair helps to address some of the FFEA's needs and challenges.

"I think we face big challenges with the economy," he said. "There have been festival organizations that have had to make cutbacks. We need to do what we can to help those organizations. We need to think outside the box to help them. There has been some festivals and events that weren't held this year because of lack of government support. That support has been reduced, or in some cases, eliminated."