

WAYNE T. PRICE

FLORIDA TODAY

The Florida Space Coast Council of the National Management Association has honored two Brevard County executives for their contributions to the local business community.

Kimberly Agee, senior director of competitive advancement for the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, was named Brevard County Manager of the Year.

Patricia Stratton, functional director of ground operations for United Space Alliance, received the 2009 Gold Knight of Leadership Award. That's the highest award given each year to an executive affiliated with the Florida Space Coast Council.

The Florida Space Coast Council is part of the National Management Association's Leadership Development Organization.

The honors coincided with Management Week in America, which concluded Friday.

Agee, a Brevard native, has been with the Economic Development Commission for 16 years, focusing on funding strategies, recruiting new businesses and helping existing ones expand.

The Florida Space Coast Council noted Agee's work in preventing the closing of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Cape Canaveral during the 2004 Base Realignment & Closure proceedings. Those efforts save 1,000 jobs with average wages near \$70,000.

Stratton began her career in 1982 with United Space Boosters Inc. and then joined Lockheed Space Operations Co. on the space shuttle processing contract. After a series of advancements, Stratton now is functional director of ground operations for United Space Alliance.

The Florida Space Coast Council said Stratton was "very instrumental in initiating the NASA-to-USA transition of task responsibility." That effort began in 1996 and helped pave the way for the current NASA and USA roles for many tasks performed today.

Stratton also is credited with leading efforts to transition personnel from previous NASA contractors to United Space Alliance.

Contact Price at 242-3658 or wprice@floridatoday.com.