



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

July 31, 2017

#### Top Stories:

- Florida Unemployment Lowest in a Decade; Nearly 18,000 Jobs Created Across the State in June
- Broward County sees positive over the year growth in Professional and Business Services
- \$85 Million Florida Job Growth Fund Will Invest in New Jobs and Competitive Communities
- EFI Board of Directors Select Pete Antonacci as CEO
- Advertise in Alliance's 2018 Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile

## Top Stories

### Florida Unemployment Lowest in a Decade; Nearly 18,000 Jobs Created Across the State in June

Governor Rick Scott recently announced that Florida's unemployment rate dropped to 4.1 percent in June, the lowest rate since June 2007. Florida businesses created nearly 18,000 private-sector jobs in June, bringing the total number of new jobs added since December 2010 to 1,397,400. Florida's annual private-sector job growth rate, which is 3.1 percent, has exceeded the nation's rate, which is 1.7 percent, for 63 consecutive months. To read more, please [click here](#).

### Broward County sees positive over the year growth in Professional and Business Services

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.0 percent unemployment rate in June 2017. This rate was 0.8 percentage point lower than the region's year-ago rate of 4.8 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 35,100 jobs (+4.3 percent) over the year, with an employment of 844,600 in Broward County. The region's jobless rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate (4.3 percent). Out of a labor force of 1,042,677 there were 42,037 unemployed Broward County residents. "Broward County gained +12,300 jobs in professional and business services," said Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "In addition, all 24 metro areas in the state as well as nine out of 10 major industries experienced positive over-the-year job growth in Florida this month." To read more, please [click here](#).

### \$85 Million Florida Job Growth Fund Will Invest in New Jobs and Competitive Communities - EFI and DEO Now Accepting Economic Development Project Proposals

On July 12, Governor Rick Scott announced Enterprise Florida and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) are accepting economic development project proposals for the new \$85 million Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. Economic development projects that enhance community infrastructure or develop workforce training programs are eligible to receive funding. To read more, please [click here](#). For more information about the grant fund, or download project proposal templates, please [click here](#).

### EFI Board of Directors Select Pete Antonacci as CEO

The Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) Board of Directors voted unanimously on July 24th to approve Peter Antonacci as the new President & CEO of Enterprise Florida, Inc. Antonacci will also serve as Florida's Secretary of Commerce. He will begin his new role with EFI on August 2. Governor Scott said, "I am proud that the entire EFI Board voted to select Pete Antonacci as their new President and CEO. Pete has a long record of success and has demonstrated an incredible commitment to helping make our state the best place for families and job creators." To read more, please [click here](#).

### Advertise in the Alliance's 2018 Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, in partnership with the *South Florida Business Journal*, is producing its annual *Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile* of Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County. Our flagship marketing publication, the *Sourcebook* is sent to national and international business executives when they contact the Alliance regarding a potential company relocation or expansion. It debuts at the Alliance Annual Dinner and is also mailed to all Alliance members, distributed to all *South Florida Business Journal* Broward subscribers, placed in select hotels, and distributed to Chambers and business resource organizations. In total, 11,000 copies will be distributed and it is [available for download](#) on the Alliance website. To advertise, please contact Yasmine Gahed at 786-533-8204 or [ygahed@bizjournals.com](mailto:ygahed@bizjournals.com).

[Broward College and Broward County Public Schools Launch New Program Retraining Paraprofessionals as Teachers](#)

[Broward College best in state for certifications](#)

[BCPS Announces Additional 2017 National Merit Scholarship Winners](#)

[BCPS Awarded \\$227,000 Grant to Increase Robotics Instruction and Resources in Schools](#)

[BCPS Awarded \\$64,000 Grant to Provide Opportunities for Juvenile Justice Youth](#)

[BCPS: Send Your Sales Tax to Schools](#)

[Vietnam International Center Student Announced as 2017 Broward College Presidential Scholarship Winner](#)

[NSU Partners with Ice Cream Shop to Create Fun Entrepreneurial Program for High Schoolers](#)

[Nova Southeastern University Receives International Award for Innovative Alumni Program](#)

[NSU's Provost Named to Digital Fellows Program](#)

[Nova Southeastern University's College of Engineering and Computing Strengthens Key Alliances with Latin America Universities](#)

[Nova Southeastern University Hosting Annual International Faculty Training Workshop – 'Educating Millennials and Beyond'](#)

## Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

**ANF Group Inc.** and Axis Healthcare Partners, Developers of the future 82,000 SF Cypress Creek Medical Pavilion at 2122 West Cypress Creek Road, Fort Lauderdale, have reported that the foundation work is complete and tilt-wall panels are being erected. To read more, please [click here](#).

South Florida-based **Big Dog Construction Services, Inc.** (BDCSI) continues to grow. The company, which focuses on commercial, residential and subcontracting construction services from Miami to West Palm Beach, has hired Tom Lindner as Director of Pre-Construction Services. He will oversee client services, manage incoming contracts as well as optimize standard practices and procedures. Big Dog has also hired Roxanne Goudie as Project Manager/Estimator. In this role, she will oversee residential client projects. To read more, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

In June, **Broward County** Commissioner Chip LaMarca was selected by the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) as one of its 2017 Presidential Advocates. This special recognition is bestowed upon county commissioners who have shown exceptional leadership in partnering with FAC during the 2017 Florida Legislature session to advance the counties' legislative agenda. The honor serves to acknowledge Commissioner LaMarca's strong commitment to addressing important local government issues and his dedication to improving and maintaining a high quality of life for all Floridians by strengthening public policy. To read more, please [click here](#).

In the first half of 2017, **BankUnited** awarded grants totaling approximately \$467,000 to 60 nonprofits throughout Florida and New York to support programming in the areas of affordable housing, adult financial literacy, at-risk youth, neighborhood revitalization and economic development. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Gunster**, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that it is named one of the "Best companies to work for" in 2017 by Florida Trend magazine. The law firm ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the large-company (250+ employees) category, and is the highest-ranked Florida-based company in the category. Florida Trend's 'Best companies' honor is a rigorous competition and many companies seek this honor. Gunster's competitive salaries, benefits and bonuses, staff appreciation efforts and wellness programs all contribute to the firm's reputation as a top employer. The average length of employment is 11 years, and many employees spend their entire careers at Gunster. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Hoffman's Chocolates** returned for the second consecutive year as the presenting sponsor of the Family Fun series at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center. The series brings favorite stories from beloved children's literature to life on stage and each performance includes free pre-show activities and a complimentary sweet treat from Hoffman's after the curtain comes down. To read more, please [click here](#).

**JetBlue** and Random House Children's Books today launched the seventh annual Soar with Reading™ initiative, which provides age-appropriate books to children who need them most. This summer the program lands in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with JetBlue installing four custom vending machines throughout the city to distribute 100,000 books, free of charge. The vending machines will include a variety of children's books. To read more including book vending machine locations, please [click here](#).

**Miller Construction Company** has completed its third project for The Graham Companies, a 51,200-square-foot building in Miami Lakes that will be the new South Florida campus of Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez. The University is a non-profit dual language institution of higher education. As general contractor for the \$10 million built-to-suit to lease project, Miller Construction Company fast-tracked the structural shell and interior to ensure delivery for the University's fall semester. After topping off the two-story building, Miller's crews worked simultaneously on shell completion and interior build-out to accelerate construction and limit the client's costs. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Mink & Mink, Inc.** recently completed the lease of an Oakland Park warehouse space in Oakland Park. The new tenant, NOC Materials, an importer of roofing materials from Curecreto, their partner in Mexico, just leased the 2,600sf unit. John Nocella of NOC Materials said that Curecreto is currently working on the patent for a newly designed lightweight concrete insulation in the USA. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Moss & Associates** was recently certified as a great workplace by the independent analysts at Great Place to Work®. Moss earned this credential based on extensive ratings provided by its employees in anonymous surveys. “The results of this survey reinforce our belief that a positive and supportive culture is a key component to Moss’ overall success,” said Scott Moss, president of Moss. “Our core values of honoring relationships, fostering an entrepreneurial spirit and generating contagious energy are at the heart of every leadership decision we make. We know we’re on the right track when 97 percent of the team says that the company, ‘has a great atmosphere and that they’re proud to tell others they work here.’” To read more, please [click here](#)

**Tripp Scott** recently announced that Kristopher Aungst, Stephanie Toothaker and Matthew Zifrony, all directors with the firm, were selected by their peers as Florida Trend Magazine’s 2017 Florida Legal Elite. The Florida Legal Elite are the top lawyers practicing in Florida, according to the results of the magazine’s statewide attorney surveys. The special issue, which goes on stands in July, provides Florida Trend readers with an extensive list of the state’s most prominent attorneys. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Ultimate Software**, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced that Ultimate has been named to *Forbes*’ list of the 25 Fastest-Growing Public Tech Companies in 2017. Firms featured on the Fast Tech 25 have demonstrated strong sales growth over the past three years and lead their industry in projected earnings growth for the next three to five years, according to *Forbes*. “We’re pleased to be recognized by *Forbes* and named to this year’s Fast Tech 25,” said Scott Scherr, CEO, president, and founder of Ultimate. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **United Way of Broward County** is seeking ReadingPals. One hour a week will help a child improve their reading skills. ReadingPals are mentors who use books and conversation to build language skills of Pre-K and First Grade students. Each week you will provide the individual attention & encouragement children need to thrive. For more information, please visit <http://www.unitedwaybroward.org/readingpals>.

August is National Black Business Month. In celebration, The Mosaic Group, in partnership with the **Urban League of Broward County**, will host the 7th Annual South Florida Black Economic Forum & Awards Reception, Friday, August 4, 2017 at the Urban League of Broward County. To read more, please [click here](#).

As part of an effort to prepare today’s students with the skills necessary to make financially responsible decisions, **Wells Fargo** has donated \$70,000 to **Broward Education Foundation** to support financial literacy programs in Broward County Public Schools. “Giving back to South Florida’s growing and vibrant communities is a priority for Wells Fargo,” said Wells Fargo South Florida Region President Joe Atkinson. “We have supported Broward Education Foundation for nearly 15 years and are proud to continue to support students in Broward County.” The donation includes a \$40,000 Wells Fargo Community Connection Grant, a program where Wells Fargo branches select a local nonprofit or school to receive a \$1,000 grant. In Broward County, 40 branches chose to support Broward Education Foundation. To read more, please [click here](#).

## Featured Property of the Month



### [Stonegate Bank Building](#)

2929 East Commercial Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, 33308

Type of space: Office

Listed by [D.K. Mink, Mink and Mink, Inc.](#)

Additional details at [www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com](http://www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com)

## Upcoming Events

### [Alliance Events](#)

### **Alliance Permitting Action Meeting (Invitation only)**

Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 12:15 p.m.

Location: Broward County Main Library,

For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, [pdoty@gflalliance.org](mailto:pdoty@gflalliance.org)

### **Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation only)**

Thursday, August 10, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, [hkulp@gflalliance.org](mailto:hkulp@gflalliance.org)

### **Alliance Council Connect- Gulfstream Park Racing & Casino (Members only)**

Thursday, August 24, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Gulfstream Park Racing & Casino, Sport of Kings Theatre, Hallandale Beach

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, [tvinaixa@gflalliance.org](mailto:tvinaixa@gflalliance.org)

### **Save the Date: Alliance Annual Meeting**

Thursday, October 19, 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Signature Grand

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, [tvinaixa@gflalliance.org](mailto:tvinaixa@gflalliance.org)

## **Enterprise Florida Events**

### **FIME 2017**

Tuesday, August 8 - Thursday, August 10

Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando

For more information, [click here](#).

### **Medical Fair Thailand 2017**

Wednesday, September 6, - Friday, September 8

Location: Bangkok, Singapore

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **GITEX Technology Week**

Sunday, October 8, 2017 - Thursday, October 12

Location: Dubai World Trade Center, UAE

For more information, please [click here](#).

**Enterprise Florida (EFI)** conducts or participates in an extensive schedule of export marketing missions and exhibitions worldwide. These trade events are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information and more event listings, please [click here](#).

## **Member/Partner Events**

### **City of Fort Lauderdale's Unleash Your Business Power Academy - Strategic Thinking**

Tuesday, August 1, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, 512 NE 2nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **7th Annual South Florida Black Economic Forum & Awards Reception**

Friday, August 4, 11:00 a.m.

Location: Urban League of Broward County, 560 NW 27th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **South Florida Business Journal's Forty Under 40 Luncheon**

Friday, August 4, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Way, Miami

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **City of Fort Lauderdale's Unleash Your Business Power Academy - Make Your Business Bankable**

Tuesday, August 8, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, 512 NE 2nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

### **City of Fort Lauderdale's Unleash Your Business Power Academy - Doing business in Successfully with the City**

Tuesday, August 15, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, 512 NE 2nd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

**Airline E&M: North America (Aviation Week Network / in Partnership with the Alliance)**

Wednesday, October 18 – Thursday, October 19

Location: The Palms Hotel & Spa, Miami Beach

For more information, please [click here](#).

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit [www.gfalliance.org](http://www.gfalliance.org) for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Also, join our [LinkedIn group](#) (*for members only*).

*Looking for commercial properties and demographic information?* Visit [www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com](http://www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com).

*Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale?* [Click here](#) to find out (90 second video).