

greater Fort Lauderdale Broward Economic Development alliance



**The Alliance E-Newsletter
January 28, 2010**

Top Stories

Florida's Future Summit Set for February 5th

Dr. Dale Brill, president of the Florida Chamber Foundation and former director of the Florida Office of Trade, Tourism and Economic Development, will be the keynote speaker at the Florida's Future Summit, hosted by The Alliance Partner Council on Friday, February 5th. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Registration/Continental Breakfast from 8:00-9:00 a.m.) at the Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center at Nova Southeastern University at 3100 Ray Ferrero, Jr. Blvd. in Davie. Dr. Brill will be discussing the six economic drivers that can prepare South Florida for economic and talent growth. Those are: Workforce, Innovation, Infrastructure, Global Competitiveness, Streamlined Civic and Government Systems, and Quality of Life. Other panelists and speakers will also be featured. The cost of the event, which includes breakfast, is \$20. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

South Florida Named Seventh-Best Place to Start a Business

The Miami-Fort Lauderdale metropolitan area moved up five spots to rank as the seventh-best place to launch a new business in 2010, according to a new Portfolio.com/bizjournals study. The region placed 12th last year. Rankings were calculated through a formula that took into account population, employment and small-business growth. The highest scores in the study went to areas that have prosperous economies, are expanding rapidly and are densely packed with small businesses.

Among the top 10, South Florida stands out for the sheer number of small businesses and its ratio of small businesses to population in the *Bizjournals* six-part formula that looked for the places that are most conducive to the creation and development of small businesses. South Florida's 175,917 small businesses ranked first among the top 10 metro areas on the 100-city area scorecard. To read the entire story, please [click here](#).

NSU Oceanographic Center Receives \$15 Million to Build America's Largest Coral Reef Research Center

Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center recently received \$15 million in federal stimulus money to build the country's largest coral reef research center. The 86,000 square foot Center of Excellence for Coral Reef Ecosystems Science Research Facility will house local, national and international coral reef research. The facility will be located at NSU's

Oceanographic Center at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park in Dania Beach.

At a price-tag of roughly \$30 million, the center is expected to create 22 new academic jobs and 300 construction jobs; employ 50 graduate students; and preserve 22 existing academic jobs. NSU is planning to contribute 50 percent of the center's construction cost.

"I am thrilled that Nova Southeastern University has this opportunity to continue its leadership role in Florida's science and research economy. This type of research infrastructure is urgently needed to support economic growth and environmental sustainability in our region. It builds on NSU's multi-disciplinary research mission and will provide an anchor for the creation of hundreds of new jobs in addition to the direct academic, research and construction jobs it will provide," said Ray Ferrero, Jr., chancellor of NSU.

The award was one of 12 announced January 8th by the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a result of a nationwide competition made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding passed by Congress last year. The NSU grant was one of two that received the largest amount awarded at \$15 million.

The new center will be the only research facility in the nation dedicated to coral reef ecosystem research. The new facility will help sustain a \$6 billion industry in South Florida.

CEO Council Hosts CoreNet Global Industry Leaders Roundtable

The Alliance's CEO Council recently served as the city host sponsor for the prestigious Annual Industry Leaders Roundtable and Executive Leaders Council Forum of CoreNet Global, the world's largest association of corporate real estate executives, service providers, site selection consultants and economic developers. The three day event took place at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale and was attended by 45 national and international corporate real estate executives and CoreNet Global executive staff. Mike Jackson, the Chairman and CEO of AutoNation, and CEO Council member, was the keynote speaker, discussing current business trends with members of the Executive Leaders Council.

Alliance Board Votes to Oppose Amendment 4

The Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Economic Development Alliance board of directors has announced its opposition to Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution. At its meeting held on January 21, the board voted unanimously to oppose the amendment, which will be on the ballot in November 2010. "Amendment 4 is a bad idea that would greatly hamper our ability to attract and keep companies and jobs in Florida," said Bob Swindell, interim president and CEO. "The uncertainty it would cause businesses would drive them to look elsewhere when deciding where to locate or expand their business. Amendment 4 would force voters to decide on all changes to a city or county's comprehensive plan, resulting in significant costs to taxpayers and making it more expensive for companies to do business in Florida."

New Member Promotion Continues in Full Swing!

Julie Berry, Stiles Corporation, is heading up a new Alliance member promotion that has brought in thirteen new members since the beginning of the fiscal year. The incentive program includes a free 7-day cruise on MSC Cruises and a recognition event for members who participate in helping to reach our new member goal. Please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at lizt@browardalliance.org with any new member prospect you can nominate.

Education & Workforce Development

Florida's Education Progress Continues with 8th Place Ranking

Governor Charlie Crist has announced that Florida's decade of educational progress continued this year with a jump to 8th in the nation on the 2010 Quality Counts: Fresh Course, Swift Current report. Issued annually by *Education Week*, the report tracks state policies and performance across key areas of education and assigns each state with an overall point total to signify their education standing in the nation. This year's increase follows continuing trends of improvement that saw the Sunshine State ranked 10th last year and 14th in 2008, up from 31st in 2007.

Similar to previous years, the 2010 edition of the report grades states based on their performance and policies in six main education areas: the Teaching Profession; Standards, Assessments, and Accountability; Chance for Success; School Finance; Transitions and Alignment; and K-12 Achievement. This year's report updated scores in four of those areas (Teaching Profession; Standards, Assessments, and Accountability; Chance for Success; School Finance) and combined it with previous scores for the remaining categories. The overall point total assigned to each state is the average score for all six categories.

To view details about Florida's performance on the report, please visit <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2010/17src.h29.html?intc=ml>.

Broward County School District Energy Training Partnership Shares in U.S. Department of Labor \$100 Million in Green Jobs Training Grants

The Broward County Energy Training Partnership, led by Minority Builders of Broward, OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center) and the Broward County Public Schools Technical Centers, has been awarded a prestigious \$3.3 million training grant by the US Department of Labor. As part of the federal stimulus package, this grant will allow the partnership to recruit, train and prepare 900 Broward citizens for a range of careers including: hybrid/electric auto technicians, weatherization specialists, wind and energy auditors, and solar panel installers. The program's graduates will be eligible for national certification and one of the hundreds of jobs already committed by program partners. In addition to the huge benefits to participants, the program will serve as a kick-off to the county's move into the Green Economy. The grant is part of \$100 million in green jobs training grants, as authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) recently announced by US Department of Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis.

Two Broward Schools Named Florida Title I Distinguished Schools for 2008/09

Two Broward County Public School District schools have been identified as Florida Title I Distinguished Schools for 2008/09 by the Florida Department of Education. The Florida Title I Distinguished Schools award recognizes Title 1 Schools that have made the greatest progress in sustaining high levels of academic achievement and for closing the achievement gap for students in the No Child Left Behind subgroups. This recognition is awarded to only 17 of Florida's 1,391 Title 1 schools. Palmview Elementary is being recognized for closing the achievement gap in reading and mathematics proficiency for Free and Reduced Price Lunch students and English Language Learning students. Watkins Elementary is being recognized for sustained academic achievement over the last two years and for closing the achievement gap in reading and mathematics proficiency for FRPL students and ELL students. "These schools are a true example of educational excellence in Florida," stated Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor of Public Schools.

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News
(Alliance members in bold)

Peak 10, a managed services company which recently acquired Fort Lauderdale-based **1Vault Networks**, has amended and expanded its credit facility to \$95 million. RBC Capital Markets was the Sole Lead Arranger and Sole Book Runner for the bank syndicate. GE Capital Corporation was the syndication agent and Royal Bank of Canada was the documentation agent. The majority of the \$95 million credit facility will accelerate Peak 10's capacity expansion plans.

Congratulations to Alliance CEO Council member companies **JM Family Enterprises** and **Balfour Beatty Construction**! Both have been named to *Fortune* magazine's Best Companies to Work for List, the top 100 in the nation.

CB Richard Ellis (CBRE), has announced the sale of Stirling Town Center located at 8637 Stirling Road in Cooper City. The property was acquired by Prince of Cooper City, LLC for \$15,334,000 or \$284 per square foot. The company also arranged the sale of the ±16,832 square foot industrial, single-tenant investment property located at 1600 SW 34th Avenue in Deerfield Beach. The property was acquired by a local investor as a long-term investment for \$2,200,000 or ±\$130.70 per square foot.

Ruden McClosky announced that attorneys Jesmany Jomarron, Elizabeth L. Somerstein and Jamie B. Wasserman have joined as Associates in the firm's Litigation Practice Group.

In a year-end new lease marking one of the largest Fort Lauderdale commercial real estate transactions of 2009, **Stiles** has announced that Franklin Resources, Inc., (NYSE:BEN), the global investment management organization known as Franklin Templeton Investments, has signed a lease for 80,448 square feet at 300 Las Olas Place in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Under a 10-year lease, Franklin Templeton will occupy a major portion of Stiles' current corporate headquarters building, according to Tom Kates, president of Stiles Realty. The investment management firm will relocate its 350 employees from its current downtown Fort Lauderdale office location. Kates said that in turn, Stiles will relocate to a neighboring building it owns, 301 E. Las Olas Boulevard.

Stiles has also secured acquisition and construction financing to create Nova Southeastern University's (NSU) new 75,000 square foot Student Educational Center in Palm Beach Gardens.

Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events

Enterprise Florida Events:

Singapore Air Show

February 23-28, 2010

Singapore

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Aerospace/Aviation

EnerTech World Expo

March 3-6

Mumbai, India

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Clean Energy

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 to see more event listings, please visit <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx>.

Urban Land Institute 2010 South Florida Economic & Development Outlook Program

February 9, 2010 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council 25th Annual Business Expo

March 11-12, 2010

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

Alliance Calendar of Events

"Florida's Future" Summit, hosted by The Alliance Partner Council

Friday, February 5, 2010 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center, Nova Southeastern University

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

Trade Mission from Quebec

Friday, February 26th 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Vielka Quintero at 954-524-3119 or at

vquintero@browardalliance.org.

Entrepreneur Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, March 10th 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Kathleen Weekes at 954-627-0132 or at

kweekes@browardalliance.org.

Leadership Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, March 16th 8:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at

lizt@browardalliance.org

Corporate Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, March 17th 8:30 a.m.

Location: 110 Tower, 110 S.E. 6th Street, 30th Floor

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 or at

hkulp@browardalliance.org.

Governor Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, March 23rd 8:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at

lizt@browardalliance.org

Calendar subject to change without notice. Please visit www.browardalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding The Alliance.

Follow The Alliance on these websites: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)

Also join our [LinkedIn group](#) (for members only).

greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Economic Development Alliance

Broward County's Official Economic Development Partnership

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