



Photo by Ken Henson – ken@whitehotmedia.com

The Alliance E-Newsletter
September 28, 2012
Top Stories

Alliance Annual Meeting set for October 4 – BankUnited CEO to Keynote

Please register now to attend the Alliance's 2012 Annual Meeting! The annual meeting is our most important event of the year, where we present economic development accomplishments for the fiscal year ending and introduce the community to our new and exciting plans for the upcoming year. This year's dinner event will be held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood on Thursday, October 4 beginning with a reception at 6:00 p.m. Hear from keynote speaker and BankUnited Chairman, President and CEO John Kanas. Sponsors of the event include (Presenting) Patriot National Insurance Group; (Platinum) AutoNation, Broward College, FP&L, JM Family Enterprises and South Florida Business Journal; (Gold) Kaplan University, Nova Southeastern University; (Silver) Compass Office Solutions, Florida Blue, FPL Fibernet, GUNSTER, and Research in Motion. Thank you to our sponsors and a special thank you goes to our Partner, Broward County. For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact Gail Bulfin at 954-627-0127 or at gbulfin@gflalliance.org. To register, please go to www.gflalliance.org/annualmeeting.

Home Design Firm Expands and Relocates to KTR Hollywood

T.J. R.M. Imports, a home design firm, is relocating from the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) in Dania Beach to KTR Hollywood in the Southeast Broward submarket. Scheduled for occupancy on November 1, 2012, T.J. R.M. Imports will occupy a total of 27,000 square feet for a 15-year term. The showroom space will encompass the entire space and is currently under construction. This new space represents an expansion of approximately 7,000 square feet from T.J. R.M. Imports' current showroom.

KTR Hollywood is a 521,000-square-foot, 13-building, Class A flex park located on the west side of I-95 in Hollywood, Florida. The building is within the newly formed South Florida Design Park area. T.J. R.M. Imports will join other leading firms such as Jerry Pair, Stark Carpet and J. Nelson to name a few.

Broward College Named One of Best Community Colleges in U.S.

Broward College has been named one of ten finalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

Broward College now enters the last stage of the competition for the \$1 million prize fund that will be awarded in March in Washington, D.C. to the winner and up to four finalists-with-distinction.

Selected from an original pool of more than 1,000 community colleges, the Prize recognizes the most outstanding institutions for achievements in four areas: student learning outcomes, degree and college completion, labor market success in students securing jobs after college, and minority and low-income student success.

"Broward College is at the forefront of preparing a diverse student body for jobs in today's knowledge-based economy," said Josh Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program. "Broward has proven itself a vital part of the efforts of Fort Lauderdale and the state of Florida to rebuild economically in an era of constricted state budgets."

To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward Commissioners Welcome Colombian Mayors' Business Delegation

The Colombian Consul General, Colombian Mayors from several cities, port operators, business owners, exporters and those in the publishing business recently arrived in Broward County hoping to build business relationships which will result in profitable ventures and strengthen both economies.

Broward County Commissioners welcomed the delegation at a Commission Board meeting. "The recession, that we're slowly coming out of, hit us hard and we as elected officials had to make hard financial decisions. Now we're looking to expand all business opportunities in Broward County. The Colombia Free Trade Agreement brings opportunity. We welcome you and hope that you will see firsthand all that we have to offer and do business with us," said Mayor John E. Rodstrom, Jr., who presented a Key to the County to Deputy Consul General of Colombia Juan Jose Paez Pinzon.

"For the government of Colombia, the state of Florida is very important. We opened a new consulate in Orlando and we also have our main branch of the Colombian commerce office in Miami. So we are hoping that this partnership with the representatives of the state of Florida is very successful," said Pinzon.

"The Broward County Commission favored taking a leading role in organizing this trade mission, along with event co-sponsors, in order to maximize economic development opportunities such as job creation, new prospects for local businesses and increased revenue in Broward County," said Broward County Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness, who initiated and organized the Colombian trade mission with Commission approval.

The Colombian Mayors' Business delegation toured Port Everglades, the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, the Broward County Emergency Operations Center and the cities of Miramar and Weston. They also participated in a daylong business symposium at Nova Southeastern University's new Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach.

To read more, please [click here](#).

Governor of State of Goiás, Brazil visits Port Everglades and Broward County

The Honorable Marconi Perillo, Governor for the State of Goiás, Brazil received a "Key to the County" from Commissioner Dale V.C. Holness during his official visit to Port Everglades and Broward County on September 24th. The visit also included a presentation from Port Everglades Director Steven Cernak, a tour of Port Everglades and a special meeting at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance attended by the Consulate General of Brazil in Miami, members of the Alliance's International Action Team and special guests such as DHL, CSX and the Brazilian Business Group.

Lt. Governor Carroll Gets Bird-Eye View of Port Everglades and its Expansion Projects

Florida Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll recently visited Port Everglades to see the progress on the Port's three critical expansion projects that are projected to create 7,000 new jobs regionally and support more than 135,000 jobs statewide over the next 15 years. During the visit, which included a tour and overview from the top of one of the Port's 151-foot-high post-Panamax container gantry cranes, the Lt. Governor also met with business and community leaders who expressed the urgency for moving the expansion projects forward.

"Hearing about and seeing the opportunities at Port Everglades for increased international trade, especially with Latin America and the Caribbean, reinforces the importance of Governor Rick Scott's focus on investing in our state's seaports and transportation infrastructure," Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll told the group of about 30 regional business and community leaders who directed questions to her regarding the state's plans to increase transportation funding. "Investment in our ports is a critical component for Florida to continue as our nation's leader in trade with Latin America and the Caribbean."

To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward College Tops \$4 Million in Labor Grants

Broward College will receive more than \$4 million in federal grants to support training and placement of workers in manufacturing and high technology jobs. The funds were awarded to two different consortia of state and community colleges by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL).

The first grant, "Adapting and Adopting Competency-based IT Instruction to Accelerate Learning for TAA-Certified and Adult Leaders," involves a partnership among Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, Austin Community College in Austin Texas, and Broward College. Broward College will receive \$3.2 million of the \$11.996 million grant. The program will accelerate training and placement of skilled workers into high-technology jobs through competency-based instruction in evidence-based models, which help learners earn certificates and degrees in less time and at a lower cost than traditional semester-length models.

"This grant provides us with the tools needed to help workers develop 21st -century skills, increase employment opportunities and strengthen the labor force," said Broward College President, J. David Armstrong, Jr.

Consortium colleges will each develop competency based-IT career pathways; Austin-programming, Broward-technical support, and Sinclair-networking and software development. Results will be shared so that each college can offer multiple programs.

Award of a second grant for Broward College was also announced by U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda L. Solis. A 12-member state college consortium will receive close of \$15 million to support manufacturing, of which Broward College will receive close to \$1 million. The program, Florida TRADE (Transforming Resources for Accelerated Degrees & Employment), will address the growing critical skilled workforce shortage faced by the state's manufacturing industry and related industry clusters. The program is designed to match the needs of advanced manufacturing businesses with the targeted industry training offered by the member colleges.

Announcement of both grant awards was made by Secretary Solis during a tour of the St. Petersburg College Center for Emerging Technologies. All the funds were part of a 54-grant, \$500 million award made to 297 community colleges around the nation to foster partnerships between community colleges and local employers to promote skills development and employment opportunities in fields such as advanced manufacturing, transportation and health care as well as science, technology, engineering and math occupations.

Portus Services expands to Port Everglades

Portus Services LLC, a private stevedore and terminal operator based in Jacksonville, FL, is expanding to Port Everglades and investing more than \$1 million in new technology and state-of-the-art cargo handling equipment. Portus recently acquired St. Johns Shipping, a longtime cargo operator at Port Everglades with a diverse customer mix including Frontier Liner Services, Interocean and Trinity Shipping Services.

"We are honored that Portus selected Port Everglades for its first expansion venture," says Port Everglades Chief Executive & Port Director Steven Cernak. "Portus has a business model that is poised for growth and we are looking forward to being part of the company's success."

To read more, please [click here](#).

Six Pillars Celebration Launch Event and Inaugural Annual Meeting set for October 17

Please register now to attend the celebration launch and first annual meeting of Broward Six Pillars. Six Pillars is meant to help communities throughout the state of Florida prosper and create high paying jobs by creating a visioning process through 2030, addressing six areas deemed critical to economic success in the future. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 17th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at the Signature Grand, 6900 W State Road 84 in Davie. The Six Pillars plan for Broward County will be debuted at the meeting. The cost is \$25.00 and anyone is invited to attend. To register, please [click here](#).

Alliance Vice President of Business Development Wins Award at Brazilian Event

Congratulations to David Coddington, Vice President of Business Development for the Alliance, who recently received the "Friends of the Brazilian Community" Award from the Brazilian Business Group. Mayor Lamar Fisher of the City of Pompano Beach, and Ric Greene, President/CEO of the Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce, were also recognized.

Alliance Director of Business Development, Featured as FEDC's Member of the Week

Alliance Director of Business Development Todd Holt was featured as this week's FEDC member of the week. To read more about Todd and to find out about the exciting things happening in FEDC's Southeast Region, please [click here](#).

Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E²B²)

National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists Announced

Forty-eight Broward County Public Schools students have been named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program. These seniors now have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$32 million, that will be offered next spring.

To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward Virtual School Wins National Award

Broward Virtual School's BEST (Bringing Environmentally Sound Transformations) initiative was recently selected one of the 100 most innovative ideas in the nation by the 2012 ING Unsung Heroes Awards Program. Broward Virtual School (BVS) was one of three schools in Florida, and the only Broward School to receive the 2012 award. As a top 100 winner, BVS received a \$2,000 grant from ING Unsung Heroes to bring its program to life. Christopher Gates and Dr. Dierdre Wilson developed their winning program, "BEST," as an 11-month study and conservation initiative on environmental issues and protection. Students in the program at BVS will become advocates in protecting the landscape for birds, fish, animals and wildlife that depend on special habitats.

ReadingPals Program Will Aid Struggling Readers

Reading is key to success in school, but one third of Florida's third grade students struggle with this basic skill and cannot read at minimally proficient levels. To address this problem, ReadingPals, a statewide, three-year initiative sponsored by United Way, is being launched to engage, encourage and enhance early literacy among pre-kindergarten through third grade students in lower-performing schools. The program is being funded through a grant from Carol and Barney Barnett of Publix Super Markets, Inc.

Partners in this new program include The Children's Movement, United Way of Broward County, the Broward School District's Youth Mentoring Programs Office, Women's Leadership Council, Early Learning Coalitions and Children's

Services Council of Broward County.

Two Broward schools will serve as pilot locations for the program.

To read more, please [click here](#).

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

Big Chef CEO Rosana Santos Calambichis is to be honored at the Florida Chapter of Women in Ecommerce™ Golden Mouse Awards Ceremony. The Golden Mouse Award has been created to honor local women in South Florida who are actively involved in their industries, the community and have either implemented or taught some form of technology as part of their professional responsibilities or have maintained a profitable businesses on the web for at least two years.

City Furniture opened a fully equipped Health & Wellness Center, offering free preventive and urgent medical care to the company's 925 employees and their families. Staffed by Holy Cross Hospital of Fort Lauderdale, the approximately 2000-square-foot clinic is located within City Furniture's million-square-foot corporate office, showroom and distribution complex in Tamarac.

Colliers International, the third-largest commercial real estate services company in the world, assisted former Wilshire Marina resulting in the completion of a \$3.37 million short sale.

More than 250 guests attended the Research Park at **Florida Atlantic University's** official grand opening of the recently relocated and expanded Technology Business Incubator (TBI). The festive event included a ribbon cutting ceremony and portrait unveiling of the late C. Scott Ellington for whom the TBI is named. The affair was held on Friday, September 14 and was attended by local political dignitaries and civic leaders, the Research Park's board of directors, FAU faculty and TBI tenants who showcased their businesses.

Two iconic Broward-based firms – **Miller Construction Company** and **Stiles** – are bringing their combined 100+ years of local construction experience to bear in a multi-million-dollar joint venture, renovating and expanding the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts** in Downtown Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB)** swept the 2012 Flagler Awards, taking home seven first place awards including the highest honor, Best of Show. Receiving the most wins in the Flagler Award history, the GFLCVB and **Starmark** also walked away from the 45th annual Governor's Conference with six Henry Awards, a Silver Award and two Bronze Awards for creative work by Starmark. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Tamarac** has earned a new rating from the National Flood Insurance Program which will result in over \$1 million in annual savings for city residents. The Community Rating System's Class 6 rating means a 20% discount retroactive to October 1, 2011, on the 13,457 residential and business flood insurance policies in the city.

Young At Art Museum has been awarded LEED® Gold Green Building Certification as established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). Young At Art Museum achieved LEED Gold certification for efficient energy use, water conservation and a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to a healthier community environment.

Spotlight on Alliance Members

Gail to Provide

[Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events](#)

Enterprise Florida Events:

U.S. - Africa Air Transportation Summit

October 10 – 12, 2012

Miami, Florida

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Various

Region: Africa

Business Development Mission to Kenya

November 11-17, 2012

Nairobi, Kenya

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Various

Region: Africa

Team Florida Mission to Colombia

December 2 – 5, 2012

Bogotá, Colombia

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Various

Region: Latin America & the Caribbean

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 go to <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx>.

Other Events:

"How to do Business with Broward County" Workshop Series

Business owners interested in contracting with Broward County can attend free two-hour seminars presented monthly by the Office of Economic and Small Business Development and the Purchasing Division. Learn the secrets of doing business with Broward County government while gaining valuable insight into the County's purchasing process and small business certification programs.

October 18, November 15 & December 20, 2012 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

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

Trade Mission to Quebec

October 2-3, 2012

Location: Montreal & Quebec City

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

Museum of Discovery and Science's Havana Nights at Sea

Wednesday, October 3, 2012 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: The Caprice – docked behind Gallery One, 2670 E. Sunrise Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale

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

ULI & NAIOP Joint Program & Tradeshow

Friday, October 5, 2012 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84, Davie

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

Jobs Fair for our Veterans

Saturday, October 6, 2012 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Armory, 400 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please call 954-437-3936.

BioFlorida Conference 2012

October 7-9, 2012

Location: JW Marriott Marquis, Miami
For more information, please [click here](#).

2012 Florida Chamber of Commerce Future of Florida Forum

October 8-9, 2012

Location: Disney's Yacht & Beach Club, 1700 Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista

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

Technology Business Incubator in the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University - Startup Weekend

October 12-14, 2012

Location: FAU College of Business & C. Scott Ellington Technology Business Incubator, Boca Raton

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

Glam-A-Thon: 6th Annual Glam Doll Strut

Saturday, October 13, 2012 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Esplanade Park, S.W. 2nd Street at S.W. 4th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

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

Six Pillars Broward Celebration Launch Event

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 7:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

Location: Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84, Davie

To register, please [click here](#).

U.S. Senate Candidate Debate

Wednesday, October 17, 2012 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center at NSU, 3100 Ray Ferrero, Jr. Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

To register, please [click here](#).

South Florida Gifted & Talented Symposium: Cognition and the Arts

Thursday, October 25, 2012 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Broward Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale

To register, please [click here](#).

NAIOP Bus Tour

Thursday, November 8, 2012 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Departs from DCOTA (Design Center of the Americas), 1855 Griffin Road, Dania Beach

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

South Florida Business Journal's 2012 Business Growth Expo

Wednesday, December 5, 2012 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Signature Grand, 6900 W. State Road 84, Davie

To register, please [click here](#).

Alliance Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATE:

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2012 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Economic Gardening CEO Forum (by invitation only)

Friday, October 12, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Location: NSU Oceanographic Center, 8000 North Ocean Drive, Dania Beach

For more information, please contact Michelle Cook at 954-627-0132 or at mcook@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Thursday, November 8, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: K.C. Wright Administration Building, BCPS, 600 S.E. 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 or at hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Entrepreneur Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Michelle Cook at 954-627-0132 or at mcook@gfalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, November 20, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gfalliance.org.

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 21, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 or at hkulp@gfalliance.org

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, November 27, 2012 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: NSU Oceanographic Center , 8000 North Ocean Drive , Dania Beach

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gfalliance.org

Alliance Holiday Council Connect

Thursday, November 29, 2012 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside Hotel, 620 E Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gfalliance.org

Calendar subject to change without notice. Please go to www.gfalliance.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).

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

To see a short video of highlights from our 2011 annual meeting, courtesy of Six Points Media (a Patriot National Insurance Group company), please [click here](#).

