

November 26, 2013

Following is a summary of recent and upcoming economic development news, stories and events.

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## Top Stories

### **Fort Lauderdale Metro Area's Unemployment Rate Declined to 5.3 Percent**

Recently, Governor Rick Scott announced that the Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach metro area gained the third highest number of jobs in October 2013 among all metro areas in Florida compared to a year ago with 18,900 new jobs. The Fort Lauderdale metro area's unemployment rate declined by 1.6 percentage points over the year, from 6.9 percent in October 2012 to 5.3 percent in October 2013. The metro area's unemployment rate in October 2013 was the third lowest in the state. Governor Scott said, "With unemployment down in the Fort Lauderdale area by 1.6 percentage points since October 2012, it is evident that the steps we are taking to improve Florida's economy are working. Statewide, we have added more than 440,900 private sector jobs, and as we continue to focus on greater economic growth, we will provide even more opportunities for Florida families." To read more, please [click here](#).

### **New Mayor and Vice Mayor Chosen in Broward County**

Broward County Commissioners recently chose Commissioner Barbara Sharief to serve as Mayor. Commissioner Tim Ryan was selected to serve as Vice Mayor. "Broward County means business," said Mayor Sharief in her acceptance speech. "It's more than just a theme for this year. It's a way of defining Broward County and what we are about, which is outcomes and results!" Sharief was born in South Florida, raised in Broward County and is a long-time resident of District 8. Mayor Sharief was successful at creating and managing a variety of companies and has a strong success record for making non-profitable businesses profitable. In 2001, Barbara visualized and created what is now known as South Florida Pediatric Homecare Inc. "SFPH." To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Alliance Represented at World's Largest Medical Tradeshow in Partnership with Enterprise Florida**

Enterprise Florida (EFI) President & CEO, Gray Swoope recently announced EFI would host the Florida pavilion at MEDICA 2013,

which showcased nearly 25 small and mid-sized Florida companies and organizations marketing their medical and healthcare products to an international audience. MEDICA is the largest medical trade fair worldwide and was held in Germany November 20 - 23. The 2013 Florida Pavilion was the largest U.S. state pavilion and its first-ever two-story pavilion, demonstrating the innovation and expertise that makes Greater Fort Lauderdale, and the entire state a leader in the life sciences sector. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **Enterprise Florida Partners with U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to Assist Florida's Small Businesses**

Gray Swoope, President & CEO of Enterprise Florida (EFI); Mary Hernandez, Regional Manager for the SBA's Export Solutions Group in the Office of International Trade in Miami; and Ed Ramos, Senior Area Manager for the SBA in Orlando recently participated in the signing of a Strategic Alliance Memorandum between EFI and the SBA. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **Bosch to Open First Communication Center in the U.S.**

The Bosch Group, a leading global supplier of technology and services, will open its first North American communication center in Fort Lauderdale in early 2014. At the new location, the business unit Bosch Communication Center, the Group's international service provider, will expand its global network and begin offering a range of services for U.S. and Canada customers. The new service center is expected to generate approximately 100 jobs by the end of 2014. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **Broward College Presents the Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series**

The Alliance is pleased to announce that it is a series sponsor of the "Broward College Presents the Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series." The series, held at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, features seven highly distinguished speakers share their exciting experiences, insights, points of view, and behind the scenes stories on some of the most current topics of the day. Each lecture is followed by a spirited Q&A session with questions submitted by audience members. The next speaker will be Bob Woodward on January 22. Alliance members receive a 10% discount on tickets with code BUS13. For more information about this exciting series, visit <http://www.fortlauderdale-speakers-series.com>.

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### **Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E<sup>2</sup>B<sup>2</sup>) News**

#### **BCPS Wins Florida Green School Award**

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is proud to be the district winner of the Florida Green School Award by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The District was honored for its P3 Eco Challenge. P3 stands for Preserving our Planet for Prosperity. The Florida Green School Award is presented to participants whose outstanding efforts demonstrate success in programs that enhance the quality of education, while preserving the environment. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **St. Thomas Aquinas High School Dedicates Multimillion Dollar Innovation Center**

One of the most advanced in-school innovation centers in the country has been dedicated at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale. Already nationally recognized as an academic and athletic powerhouse, St. Thomas Aquinas High School is implementing a series of innovative educational initiatives that are setting a standard for 21st century learning. The latest is a new multimillion dollar, cutting edge Innovation Center designed to stimulate creativity in students and faculty with interactive high-tech experiences. The technology, furniture and lighting throughout the five glass-walled classrooms and common areas are conducive to a learning environment in which students can perform at the highest level through the most current interactive technologies. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **Northeast High School Hosts STEAM Ideas Festival**

Northeast High School hosted its second annual STEAM Ideas Festival on Thursday, November 14. The community event combines science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities with the arts (STEAM). The event is designed to promote science, math and art; bring intellectual inspiration to the community; and highlight the importance of the arts in the creativity and innovation needed for STEM and STEAM careers. The event includes guest lectures and presentations, screening of the documentary film – *It's Your Ocean: Sharks*, art exhibits, interactive recycled art, take home science experiments, laser light music show and food for purchase. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **School Board Elects Patricia Good, Chair; Donna P. Korn, Vice Chair**

Members of the School Board of Broward County elected Patricia Good to serve as Chair and Donna Korn as Vice Chair. The nominations and voting took place during the School Board's Annual Organization Meeting on November 19. Both School Board members were unanimously elected. To read more, please [click here](#).

#### **Florida Atlantic University Celebrates 40 Years in Fort Lauderdale**

Florida Atlantic University recently celebrated 40 years of providing education in Fort Lauderdale with a cocktail reception at the new MetroLAB art exhibition space at the downtown Fort Lauderdale campus. Guests included FAU Interim President Dennis Crudele; Abdol Moabery, member of FAU's Board of Trustees; Anthony Abbate, associate provost for FAU's Broward campuses; Jeremy Ring,

Florida state senator; John P. “Jack” Seiler, mayor of the city of Fort Lauderdale and other distinguished guests. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Florida Atlantic University Professor Recognized as STEM Champion**

Florida Atlantic University Professor of Science Education in the College of Education, Dr. David Kumar, was recently recognized as a STEM-Champion Award recipient during the STEM Expo 2013 of the International STEM Education Association (ISEA). Dr. Kumar is the recipient of this award for college level educators category bestowed by the ISEA. The STEM-Champion Awards serve as a standard of excellence for individuals who promote integrated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. To be named a STEM-Champion Award recipient is to join an elite group of educational innovators. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Florida Atlantic University Student-Produced Album Raises Funds for Music Scholarships**

Florida Atlantic University’s student-run, faculty-supervised record label, Hoot/Wisdom Recordings, recently released the third installment to its CompOWLation album series. CompOWLation Vol. 3 is the largest release in Hoot/Wisdom’s 11-year history. The album features 20 of South Florida’s most talented bands, rappers, and singer-songwriters that are all either current FAU students or alumni. The album is a two-disc set divided according to genre. The Red Album features artists who fall under categories such as alternative rock, acoustic pop and reggae, while the Blue Album consists of hip-hop, rap and electronic dance performers. This wide selection of genres is reflective of the diversity found in the student population of FAU. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Southeastern University Researchers Uncover Genetic Surprises in Florida’s Bottlenose Dolphins**

Bottlenose dolphins are the most common and well-known of their kind – famous in TV and movies. And while one bottlenose dolphin might look similar to another, when you take a closer look at them - really close, as in genetically - there are differences. In fact, a recently published study in the Journal of Heredity focused on groups of these animals that live in specific areas along the eastern seaboard of the United States, comparing them to other bottlenose dolphins that live offshore, in the northwest Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Fort Lauderdale Cluster of Campuses Host Free Community Block Party in Las Olas Area**

Several college and university campuses in downtown Fort Lauderdale joined forces to increase awareness of higher education opportunities in the area. Broward College, Florida Atlantic University (FAU), the Lingua Center at Broward College, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and NSU Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale hosted a “Block Party” on Thursday, Nov. 14, between Andrews and Second Avenue on Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine Receives \$125,000 Donation from Great Expressions Dental Centers**

Nova Southeastern University’s College of Dental Medicine (NSU-CDM) recently announced that it has received a \$125,000 endowed scholarship from Great Expressions Dental Centers (GEDC), one of the largest privately owned dental service organizations in the United States. “We are very grateful to Great Expressions Dental Health Centers for its commitment to helping ensure that the next generation of dentists receive the financial support they need to pursue their careers,” said Linda Niessen, D.M.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., dean of the NSU-CDM. “It is thanks to corporate partners like Great Expressions that NSU is able to continue to provide the highest level of education and train future leaders in dentistry.” To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Southeastern University Names Stanley Wilson, P.T., Ed.D., CEAS, as Dean of the College of Health Care Sciences**

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) President and CEO George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., recently announced the appointment of Stanley Wilson, P.T., Ed.D., CEAS, as dean of NSU’s College of Health Care Sciences. Wilson has served in a number of administrative positions within the college, including associate dean for academic affairs and previously as associate dean for rehabilitation services and chair of the Department of Physical Therapy. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Southeastern University Researcher Receives \$1 Million Grant to Develop Virtual World Program to Support Amputees**

Some people use alternate virtual world programs like Second Life® to escape reality, but one researcher is examining whether these same virtual worlds that are used to stimulate the imagination could help amputees develop the skills needed to navigate the real world. Sandra Winkler, who has a Ph.D. in occupational therapy and serves as a faculty researcher and assistant professor for the Nova Southeastern University College of Health Care Sciences, was recently awarded a three-year grant totaling nearly \$1 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality to pursue her study. The project costs will be 100% financed with federal funds. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Southeastern University Names Jason Lewis Walton as Executive Director of Donor Relations**

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Vice President for Advancement and Community Relations Jennifer O’Flannery Anderson announced the appointment of Jason Lewis Walton, Ph.D., as executive director of donor relations. In this role, Walton is charged with overseeing the university’s system for receiving, acknowledging and stewarding donors and philanthropic gifts. He will provide leadership, supervision and management of an integrated donor development program in order to recognize philanthropic gift commitments for NSU. Walton’s responsibilities include working with NSU’s Ambassadors Board and Fellows Society members, NSU’s highest level of philanthropic benefactors and supporters. To read more, please [click here](#).

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## Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

Rosana Santos Calambichis, CEO of **BIG CHEF™**, the company that specializes in gourmet canapés, appetizers and hors d'oeuvres is happy to announce the recent partnership with Sweet & Topsy™. Sweet & Topsy offers alcohol-infused cupcakes, manufactured by BIG CHEF, inspired by your favorite cocktails. These delicious alcoholic cupcakes will give your celebration the extra kick it needs. To read more, please [click here](#).

**CBRE** arranged a lease for Raymond Building Supply Corporation at Pompano Business Park in Pompano Beach, Florida. The company signed a lease for 31,105 square feet at 2510 W. Copans Road. Occupancy is set for January 1, 2014. CBRE represented both the property owner, Invesco, and the tenant in the transaction. The company, which is expanding to accommodate increased demand as South Florida's construction and home-building industries rebound, will relocate from its current location at 1501 Green Road in Deerfield Beach. The new location will serve as the company's main distribution center servicing southeast Florida. This facility will provide a newly expanded showroom to cater to both the professional builder and retail customer. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Coconut Creek's** CreekTV is holding a contest for individuals to create videos for the TV channel. For details on the contest, visit: <http://coconutcreek.net/contest>.

The Stronach Group, which operates **Gulfstream Park and Casino**, announced recently that P.J. Campo has been named Vice President of Racing. Campo, formerly Vice President and Director of Racing for New York Racing Association, will be based primarily in Florida. He will oversee The Stronach Group's racing operations and assist Chief Operating Officer and Gulfstream Park President Tim Ritvo. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to **Gunster's** technology attorneys for their recent accolades from U.S. News – Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" in 2014, including being ranked in Tier 1 for South Florida and Tier 2 nationally, and congratulations David Bates, Kevin Levy, and Alliance Board member Bob White on their selection to the U.S. News – Best Lawyers® 2014 list in the field of technology law. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Miller Construction Company** has named Traci Miller vice president-business development and marketing for the South Florida design/builder and construction services firm. Traci Miller, a veteran construction professional and community leader who joined the Fort Lauderdale based company in 1993, is a shareholder of the firm and most recently served as director of business development and marketing. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Port Everglades** and public officials welcomed Princess Cruises' new Royal Princess to the South Florida cruise port recently and presented Captain Tony Draper with traditional plaques and keys to Broward County and the Cities of Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood. "We are honored that Princess Cruises has once again selected Port Everglades to homeport the line's newest and most sophisticated cruise ship, Royal Princess," Port Everglades Chief Executive & Port Director Steven Cernak told Captain Draper; Anthony Kaufman, Princess Cruises Senior Vice President of Commercial Affairs; and Steve Nielsen, Princess Cruises Vice President of Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations. "Princess has a long, successful history at Port Everglades and we look forward to welcoming Royal Princess in grand style." To read more, please [click here](#).

More than 800 cruise ship baggage handlers from the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local #1526 are completing a customized customer service training course in preparation for the 2014 cruise season at **Port Everglades**. The course teaches customer service excellence, and is designed specifically for porters at Port Everglades and taught by ILA members. To read more, please [click here](#).

Royal Caribbean International announced recently that **Port Everglades** will be the home port for Royal Caribbean International's newest ship, Anthem of the Seas, the second in the cruise line's new Quantum class of ships. Anthem of the Seas is scheduled to debut at Port Everglades in Fall 2015 after launching from Southampton, UK, and offering cruises to the Mediterranean. To read more, please [click here](#).

Reidel Anthony, Cornelius Bennett, Ki-Jana Carter, Anthony Muñoz, Bob Griese, OJ McDuffie, Dwight Stephenson, John Randle, Andre Reed, Duane Starks and Jack Youngblood are just some of the pro football legends that will be in town January 20 - 22 to participate in the Pro Football Legends Classic, benefiting the Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center in Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **South Florida Symphony Orchestra** opened its Masterworks Concert Series with "A Soul Unfettered" on Monday, November 18 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and on Tuesday, November 19 at the Aventura Arts & Cultural Center. Celebrating its 16th year, Maestra Sebrina María Alfonso designed a spectacular program for the first concert of the season, including Elgar's

Introduction & Allegro for Strings, Barber's Cello Concerto, Opus22, and Schubert's Symphony No. 9, "The Great." To read more, please [click here](#).

**Stiles** announced recently that its managed office buildings, Lake Shore Plaza II in Sunrise and The AutoNation Building in downtown Fort Lauderdale, were honored with The Outstanding Building of the Year (TOBY) and Earth award, respectively, from the Fort Lauderdale/Palm Beach Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA). The TOBY Awards were held at the Harbor Beach Marriott Resort and Spa in Fort Lauderdale on November 1. To read more, please [click here](#).

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### Alliance Member Spotlights

The Alliance is happy to welcome several new members and recognize our members who have upgraded to new levels.

#### Corporate Council

**Genesis Automation, Inc.** puts integrated systems control for your home or office at your fingertips. Genesis has been a leader in the South Florida community of low-voltage contractors since 1992, delivering a quality custom product for both the commercial and residential markets. **Valerie Law** is co-owner of Genesis, with more than 16 years in the acoustic design industry. She specializes in home theater design and building. Genesis Automation is a new member of the Alliance's Corporate Council.

[Genesis Automation, Inc.](#)



**Valerie Law**

**Bob Birdsong**, CEO of **OK Generators**, just moved his company up to the Corporate Council level. As the largest industrial generator dealer in the US, OK Generators' reputation as a leader in the standby power industry was earned over a thirty year period. Bob upholds the company's reputation by continuing to provide emergency power generation systems and equipment backed by a cohesive team of engineers and sales staff. Bob also contributes to local and national charities, including The March of Dimes and the Broward YMCA, and has served on the Board of Directors for Six Degrees of Golf, Broward Health Foundation and 2-1-1 Broward.

[OK Generators](#)



**Bob Birdsong**

#### Entrepreneurship Council

**Butters** is a privately held real estate firm, engaged in the construction, development, investment, property management, and leasing of industrial, office and retail space. The group has consistently ranked among the most active commercial contractors, developers and real estate brokerage companies in South Florida over the past decade, and comes to the Alliance on the Entrepreneur Council. **Molly McDonough** serves as Vice President of Butters Realty & Management. She exclusively represents business owners and tenants to help them reduce their real estate costs and increase their efficiencies. Molly is a graduate of Florida State University.

[Butters](#)



**Molly McDonough**

**Avison Young** is the world's fastest-growing commercial real estate services firm. Founded in 1978, and headquartered in Toronto, Canada, Avison Young is a collaborative, global firm and is comprised of more than 1,300 real estate professional located in 50 offices throughout the US and Canada. **Peyton Moore** is a senior associate with the firm and specializes in representation of owners of Class A office properties in South Florida in leasing space in order to maximize the value of their assets. Peyton is also the chair of the Alliance Entrepreneurship Council.

[Avison Young](#)



**Peyton Moore**

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### **Alliance Council Updates**

Alliance Councils have been very busy these past few weeks. Here is a brief summary of some of their work:

The **CEO Council**, chaired by Ray Ferrero, Jr. of Nova Southeastern University continues to promote Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County as a top choice for businesses to relocate or expand. The Council's second annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show hosting event for national/international site selection consultants, corporate real estate executives and media/opinion leaders was held October 31 through November 3, with the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 as the host hotel, and was once again a rousing success. The event included three evening receptions starting with an opening reception at the Hyatt's Panorama Ballroom to a spectacular evening reception and Piertop dinner, and ending with a closing reception and tour of the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center. CEO Council Managing Director Robin Ronne also attended the CoreNet Global Summit in Las Vegas October 22 through 29, at which the CEO Council sponsored the Chairman's Reception and Dinner at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Additionally, Ronne served as an economic development panelist during the summit for a session titled, "FPL's Powering Florida Resource Center – A Boon to Competitive Location Strategy" along with FPL Director of Economic Development Lynn Pitts, Florida Secretary of Commerce/Enterprise Florida President Gray Swoope, which was moderated by Del Boyette of Boyette Strategic Advisors.

The **Governor Council**, chaired by Melanie Dickinson of the South Florida Business Journal, had a private tour of HEICO Corporation, a technology driven aerospace, defense and electronics company in Hollywood. Alliance member Tom Irwin, EVP & Chief Financial Officer, HEICO, presented an in-depth summary of both HEICO's short term and long term goals as they continue to grow their business here in Broward and around the world. The Council also met at Roscioli Yacht Center on November 26 and heard from speakers: Bob Roscioli, President, Roscioli Yachting Center; Kristy Hebert, COO of Ward's Marine Electric and President of the MIA SF; Paul Engle, President, Bradford Marine; Danielle Butler, the MIA SF VP and partner in Hill, Betts and Nash. Governor Council Action Team, Educational Excellence Builds Business (E<sup>2</sup>B<sup>2</sup>), met for the Annual LEEO (Linking Education and Employment Outcomes) update at McArthur High School in early November. The team will be developing a new application form for the Alliance Mid-Year education award honoring our world class faculty in South Florida. The Governor Council's Port Everglades Action Team, chaired by Terry Stiles of Stiles, reports great progress toward moving Port Everglades forward with plans to widen and deepen the harbor channel in order to handle the trend to build larger ships and in anticipation of greater opportunity with the widening of the Panama Canal. Negotiations continue to include language that would allow the Port to begin the initial engineering work needed to start the project. The Permitting Action Team continues to meet and support the County's ePermit initiative; several Alliance Platinum Permitting Cities are taking the lead in working with ePermits subcommittees.

The **Leadership Council**, chaired by Stefan Pittinger of Peak 10, held a meeting at the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS), hosted by Patrick Flynn and Jennifer Homan in the Museum's second floor lab. Elaine Liftin, Ed.D., President & Executive Director for

the Council for Educational Change and Steve Wasserman, Jones Lang LaSalle and a long-time business partner, shared the vision of this post-Annenberg Challenge Grant for Education organization. In 1993, Ambassador Walter Annenberg gave \$100 million to improve public education in South Florida. Seven years, 1,275,000 students and 725 schools later, the CEC is focused on a number of initiatives that connect school principals with business leaders, mentor teachers and empower school staff to achieve educational excellence. For more information on CEC programs, go to [www.changeeducation.org](http://www.changeeducation.org).

The **Corporate Council**, chaired by Sandra Mayor of BankUnited, met in November at Resolve Marine Group located at 1510 SE 17th St., Suite 300, Fort Lauderdale. RESOLVE Marine Group, Inc. is a leading marine services organization that provides salvage, emergency response, training, naval architecture and marine engineering and many other services to the global maritime industry. For more than 30 years, RESOLVE has served commercial shipping companies, cruise lines, the offshore oil and gas industry, marine insurers, governments, agencies and other clients worldwide. Resolve Marine Group is headquartered in Fort Lauderdale with other locations in the United Kingdom, Singapore, India and China as well as other offices in the U.S. The meeting included a video clip of a salvage operation in New Zealand, a presentation by President/CEO Joseph Farrell, Jr. and a tour of the facility including its ship simulation room, which creates various training scenarios for ship operators. The Corporate Council's International Action Team has also been hard at work hosting delegations from Temuco, Chile; Italy; Spain and Germany. Pierre Taschareau, International Business Client Manager for the Alliance also conducted meetings with General Consul Jürgen T. Borsch; French General Consul, Philippe Létrilliart and Canadian Consul Marc-André Hawkes.

The **Entrepreneurship Council**, chaired by Peyton Moore of Avison Young, met in November at iBERIABANKs new location at 200 East Las Olas Boulevard. Members of the Council heard from the Metropolitan Planning Organization, both Christopher Ryan, Public Information Officer and James Cromar, Livability Planner discussed the Speak up Broward initiative and Commitment 2040. Speak up Broward is a new initiative to engage the public in building a unified vision of our transportation future. Commitment 2040 is the long term transportation plan for Broward County. To learn more about Speak Up Broward, visit [www.speakupbroward.org](http://www.speakupbroward.org).

In lieu of a November meeting, the **Partner Council**, chaired by Michael Stamm of the City of Pembroke Pines, attended a special training session titled "Cities Powering Business," given by FPL's Lynn Pitts and Del Boyette of Boyette Strategic Advisors. The session was presented in partnership by the Alliance and the Broward League of Cities and brought together city economic development representatives, chamber representatives, League of Cities members and Alliance staff.

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## Alliance Fall Events Wrap-Up

### Annual Meeting and Dinner October 17, Signature Grand



To view more photos from the **Annual Meeting and Dinner**, held October 17 at Signature Grand, please visit the Alliance on [Flickr](#) and [Facebook](#). For details on the Annual Meeting, (included in the October e-news) please [click here](#).

On Thursday, November 21, The Riverside Hotel hosted our **Holiday Council Connect** for the third year in a row, and they outdid themselves. The Alliance thanks **Heiko Dobrikow**, **Katie Donahue**, **Mary Ann Eatmon** and **Carol Tracz** for being excellent partners.

The final social event of the Alliance season took place on Friday, November 22 at the Tower Club with the annual **Business Connect Breakfast**, discussing the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. **Kristina Hebert**, COO of Ward's Marine Electric and President of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida and **Efrem "Skip" Zimbalist**, Chairman and CEO of Active Interest Media, the

producers of the show, shared their candid reflections on the success of the 54th annual extravaganza. Gate attendance was up 28 percent and many new features were added, making the world's largest in-water boat show the premier marine event of the year, generating as much income on an annual basis as a Super Bowl.

**Please mark your calendars now for the 2014 Mid-Year Luncheon at Pier 66 on Thursday, May 22, at 11:15 a.m. and the Annual Meeting & Dinner at Signature Grand on Thursday, October 23 at 5:30 p.m.**

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## Upcoming Alliance Events

### Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Members Only)

Thursday, December 12 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

City of Tamarac

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

### Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Members Only)

Wednesday, January 15 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Location TBA

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

### Alliance Mid-Year Meeting & Luncheon

Thursday, May 22 11:15 a.m.

Hyatt Regency Pier 66, Fort Lauderdale

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

### Alliance Annual Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, October 23 5:30 p.m.

Signature Grand, Davie

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

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## Enterprise Florida Events

### ARAB HEALTH Trade Show 2014

January 27 - 30, 2014

Location: Dubai, U. A. E.

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Life Sciences

Region: Europe & The Middle East

### TEAM Florida Trade Mission to the Dominican Republic

February 23 - 26, 2014

Location: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Information Technology

Region: Latin America & the Caribbean

### Singapore Air Show 2014

February 11 - 16, 2014

Location: Singapore

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Aerospace/Aviation

Region: Asia and the Pacific

**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 [click here](#).

## Member/Partner Events

### **Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop**

Tuesday, December 3 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

African American Research Library and Cultural Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

### **NAIOP South Florida Off the Bus Tour**

Wednesday, December 4 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

IDI Business Center, Davie

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

### **South Florida Hospital & Healthcare Association Annual Meeting & Dinner**

Thursday, December 5 5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Westin, Fort Lauderdale

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

### **Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop**

Wednesday, December 11 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Weston Branch Library

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

### **ITPalooza South Florida**

Friday, December 12 8:30 a.m.

Nova Southeastern University, Davie

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

### **Lifestyle Media Group Leaders in Law Awards**

Tuesday, January 21 6:30 p.m.

Nova Southeastern University, Davie

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

### **Pro Football Legends Classic**

Wednesday, January 22

Jacaranda Golf Club, Fort Lauderdale

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

### **Broward College Presents the Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series: Bob Woodward**

Wednesday, January 22 8:00 p.m.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance member discount code: BUS13

### **5th Annual "Fight For Air" Stair Climb Fort Lauderdale**

Saturday, January 25

110 Tower, Fort Lauderdale

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

### **Safe Streets Summit**

Friday, January 31 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Marriott Hollywood

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

### **South Florida Symphony Orchestra: Double Speak & Hidden Meanings**

Friday, January 31 7:30 p.m.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

### **Broward College Presents the Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series: Jeanette Walls**

Wednesday, February 12 8:00 p.m.

Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance member discount code: BUS13

### **Smart Redevelopment, Smart Partnerships, Smart Growth**

Thursday, February 13 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Nova Southeastern University, Davie

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

### **Lifestyle Media Group's Up & Comer Awards**

Thursday, February 27

Gallery of Amazing Things, Dania Beach

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

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

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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).

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