



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

April 30, 2015

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

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- Gov. Scott: Fort Lauderdale Gained Over 28,000 Jobs Over the Year; Kellstrom Defense Holds Ribbon Cutting in Miramar
- Patriot National buys Chicago Tech Company, to Add 100 Jobs in Broward
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Top Stories

REGISTER NOW for the Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon, May 14

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Mid-Year luncheon, presented by FPL, will be held Thursday, May 14 at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six. This event sells out every year so make sure you register today to guarantee space. Join Presenting sponsor: FPL; Platinum sponsors: Broward College, Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, JetBlue, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Patriot National, Inc., *South Florida Business Journal*, *South Florida Business & Wealth*, Zimmerman; Gold sponsor: AutoNation and Silver sponsor: Becker & Poliakoff. Thank you to our members who bought tables for our Mid-Year Luncheon: 110 Tower, All Aboard Florida, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, BankUnited, Baptist Heath South Florida, City of Fort Lauderdale, FPL FiberNet, iBERIABANK, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development, Port Everglades and Starmark International. Interested in sponsoring? Broward's top business audience will recognize your support. Contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gflalliance.org, or 954-627-0127 for sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please [click here](#).

Gov. Scott: Fort Lauderdale Gained Over 28,000 Jobs Over the Year; Kellstrom Defense Holds Ribbon Cutting in Miramar

Governor Rick Scott recently announced that the Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach metro area gained 28,900 jobs over the year in March 2015. Florida businesses have added more than 841,000 private-sector jobs since December 2010. Governor Scott made the announcement at Kellstrom Defense Aerospace, Inc., a Merex Group company, that has started expanding their South Florida operations in Miramar. The expansion will create 20 new jobs, in addition to retaining 106 jobs, and make a capital investment of \$5.9 million in the Miramar community. To read more, please [click here](#).

Patriot National buys Chicago Tech Company, to Add 100 Jobs in Broward

Fort Lauderdale-based Patriot National announced its acquisition of Chicago-based Vikaran Solutions LLC Monday. The workers' compensation company also entered into an agreement to purchase all outstanding stock of Vikaran's software development center in

Pune, India. That transaction is expected to close by the end of the month. The total price for Vikaran and its software center is estimated at about \$10 million. This article, by Nina Lincoff, appeared in the *South Florida Business Journal*. To read more, please [click here](#).

Fort Lauderdale Ranked High for Tech Talent

Millennials — those 18 to 34 years old — are making a difference in South Florida's technology market. Fort Lauderdale and Miami are among the 50 cities with top tech talent, says a new CBRE research report, and more millennials are the reason. Fort Lauderdale ranked 48th and Miami 50th, according to the report, "Scoring Tech Talent," released recently. This article, by Marcia Pounds, was in the *Sun Sentinel* on April 21. To read more, please [click here](#), and to read more about the CBRE Report, please [click here](#).

Broward's Hotel Boom

Dev Motwani was just a kid in the 1980s when his family moved to Fort Lauderdale to operate motels along the beachfront famous for Spring Break debauchery. But just after the family arrived from Missouri, city officials — disgusted by college kids' drunken antics — started working to abolish the annual bacchanal and carve out a new image for the destination. Motwani's father Ramesh, known as Bob, joined city leaders, residents and county tourism officials determined to turn Fort Lauderdale into a family-oriented getaway. Nearly 30 years later, 34-year-old Dev — president of family company Merrimac Ventures —believes that mission has been accomplished. This article, by Hannah Sampson, appeared in the *Miami Herald*. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



BCPS Honors Top Teacher, Principal, Assistant Principal and School-Related/District Employee of the Year at 2015 Caliber Awards Ceremony

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) honored its finest at the 2015 Caliber Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. Each year, the Caliber Awards program recognizes the exceptional leadership, hard work and dedication of Broward's outstanding teachers, principals, assistant principals and school-related/District employees. Congratulations to all of the award winners. To read more, please [click here](#).

Dillard High School Takes Home First Place at the Georgia FIRST 2015 Peachtree Regional Robotic Competition

Congratulations to the Dillard High School Sigmac@t robotic team on their second consecutive first place win at the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) 2015 Peachtree Regional Robotic Competition, held in Atlanta, Georgia. The team placed first after defeating 64 teams from around the country. "We're so incredibly proud of the Sigmac@t's for their competitive spirit and hard work. This a big win for our school, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for this team," said Principal Casandra Robinson, Dillard High School. To read more, please [click here](#).

South Plantation High School Takes Home First Place in 2015 NASA Florida Student Astronaut Challenge

Congratulations to six students from South Plantation High School who ranked first place in the 2015 NASA Florida Student Astronaut Challenge (FSAC), held at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. As part of the challenge, the South Plantation High student group participated in four tests including, a technical exam, lab experiment proposal that dealt with a future Mars mission, an engineering challenge with chemistry and physics, three rounds of a flight simulator with a prelaunch checklist, launch and landing of a space shuttle. The FSAC final three rounds involved on the spot emergencies. To read more, please [click here](#).

BCPS High School Seniors Named National Achievement Scholarship Winners

Recently, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of eight Broward County Public Schools outstanding African-American high school seniors who have won Achievement Scholarship awards through the National Achievement Scholarship Program. These Achievement Scholars are recipients of National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarships. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward Virtual School's Christopher Gates Named Finalist For 2015 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year

Congratulations to Christopher Gates, technology specialist at Broward Virtual School, for being named a finalist for the statewide 2015 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year award. Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart announced the five finalists for the award, which recognizes outstanding education support personnel for the significant contributions they make to their schools and communities. To read more, please [click here](#).

McArthur High School's Sarah Beauchamp Named Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction

Congratulations to Sarah Beauchamp, English teacher and debate coach at McArthur High School, for being named a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). Beauchamp was honored at a recognition event on March 28, 2015, held at Florida International University in Miami. To read more, please [click here](#).

Falcon Cove Middle School Prevention Squad Named State Winner in the 13th Annual eCYBERMISSION STEM Competition

Congratulations to Falcon Cove Middle School seventh grade Prevention Squad team on being named a state winner in the 13th annual eCYBERMISSION competition by the U.S. Army Educational Outreach Program. The competition is one of several science,

technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiatives offered by the U.S. Army and administered by the National Science Teachers Association. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Interested in hiring a highly motivated high school intern for the summer? Students from **Broward County Public Schools'** technical schools have studied finance, hospitality and tourism, information technology, and health science. For more information, contact Jillian Berg at jillian.berg@browardschools.com or 754-321-8447.

Do you want to live in one of the most beautiful, progressive, economically competitive and environmentally sustainable communities in the nation? Well, if you live in **Broward County**, you already do! In 2013, Broward County participated in a year-long Pilot Program to test a new national rating system called STAR (Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating communities). Broward successfully earned 436 points in the assessment, becoming the first 4-STAR Certified County in the nation on February 11, 2014. With roughly 1.8 million residents, we were also the largest community to complete the STAR assessment. To read more, please [click here](#).

Fort Worth, Texas-based D.R. Horton, the largest single-family home builder in the country, is set to break ground on its new Southeast Florida division headquarters in **Coconut Creek**. The company said construction on the 22,000-square-foot building, at 6123 Lyons Road, began on April 16. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE has arranged a long-term lease between Clarion Partners and Gold Coast Freightways for a 230,600-square-foot, Class A distribution building in Weston. Gold Coast Freightways, a less-than-truck-load carrier with corporate offices in Miami, and six terminals, leased the facility. CBRE represented the owner, Clarion Partners, in the lease. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE has been engaged by Kimco as the exclusive leasing agent for two neighborhood retail centers in Broward County. CBRE retail professionals Lisa Ferrazza and Nicole Fontaine will represent Cypress Creek Station at 6201-6531 N. Andrews Ave. in Fort Lauderdale and Maplewood Plaza at 1146-1200 N. University Drive in Coral Springs. To read more, please [click here](#).

South Florida companies **Citrix Systems**, Ryder System, Florida International University and **Kaplan** were named among the top 100 on Forbes magazine's America's Best Employers list for 2015. Forbes' survey, which appears in its April magazine, ranked 500 employers across 25 industries. A survey of 20,000 employees asked how likely they would be to recommend working for the organization. This article, by Marcia Pounds, was in the *Sun Sentinel* on April 25. To read more, please [click here](#).

Glenn M. Cooper, shareholder in **GrayRobinson's** Fort Lauderdale and Miami offices, was appointed President of the Quebec Florida Chamber of Commerce (QFCC) Florida Chapter. The mission of the Quebec Florida Chamber of Commerce is to support and promote economic and commercial development for businesses established in Quebec and Florida, and to provide valuable networking opportunities to members and partners.

Michael D. Lessne, senior associate in **GrayRobinson's** Fort Lauderdale office, was appointed to the Board of Directors of Deliver the Dream. A non-profit organization founded in 2002, Deliver the Dream offers families experiencing a serious illness or crisis a retreat weekend experience full of fun and therapeutic activities.

Nipro Diagnostics, Inc., announced recently that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared its TRUE METRIX® AIR Self-Monitoring blood glucose system - a device for people with diabetes to test blood glucose and deliver data wirelessly to a smartphone. As the diabetes store-brand leader and largest U.S. manufacturer of diabetes products for the store brand market, Nipro Diagnostics made the announcement to healthcare executives attending the National Association of Chain Drug Stores Annual Meeting in Palm Beach. To read more, please [click here](#).

Patriot National Inc. insurance company has made a new acquisition: specialty insurance firm TriGen Insurance Solutions. The purchase price was \$9.74 million, the company said. This brief, by Marcia Pounds, was in the *Sun Sentinel* on April 25. To read more, please [click here](#).

For the third consecutive year, the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** reported record year-to-year growth. Released recently, its Report to the Community documents significant expansion, reflecting the Research Park's success in creating a productive environment for high-tech, high-growth companies. To read more, please [click here](#).

Fostering connections between businesses is one of the main focuses of the Greater **Pompano Beach** Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is pleased to announce that this year's Business Expo will be held June 16th from 5-8pm at the Pompano Elks Lodge (700 NE 10th Street). This year's Business Expo will also include representation from the Pompano Beach CRA and the Business Resource Center. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Riverside Hotel** was recently listed as one of the most pet friendly hotels by TravelRevue.com. To read the article, visit: <http://travelrevue.com/8-best-dog-friendly-hotels-and-resorts/>.

Christine Yates, a director with **Tripp Scott**, has been named to the board of directors for the Historic Stranahan House Museum. "We are thrilled to welcome Christine to our board," said Board President Leo Hansen. "She joins an already impressive group of community leaders that are passionate about what we do here at Stranahan House."

Stiles, a Fort Lauderdale-based full service real estate development firm established in 1951, announced recently important developments in the company's leadership succession plan. The succession of two key roles, CEO and president, will occur within the next 24 months. To read more, please [click here](#).

Stiles Realty, a division of Fort Lauderdale-based full-service commercial real estate developer **Stiles**, announced recently the sale of the former BankAtlantic headquarters located at 2100 West Cypress Creek Road in Fort Lauderdale. The \$21 million sales price equates to \$113.51 per square foot. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of cloud-based Human Capital Management (HCM) solutions, announced recently its financial results for the first quarter of 2015. For the quarter ended March 31, 2015, Ultimate reported recurring revenues of \$118.9 million, a 22% increase, and total revenues of \$144.9 million, a 20% increase, both compared with 2014's first quarter. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance 2015 Mid-Year Meeting

Thursday, May 14, 11:15 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

For sponsorship information and additional details please contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gfalliance.org or Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at vinaixa@gfalliance.org

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Enterprise Florida Events

Florida Export Development Mission to Morocco

May 2, 2015

Location: Casablanca, Rabat & Marrakech, Morocco

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

Discover Global Markets: The Americas

May12-14, 2015

Location: Hilton Miami Downtown

For more information, [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 to see more event listings, please [click here](#).

Member/Partner Events

Business Opportunities and Trends in the Brazil Marketplace

Friday, May 1, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College

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

Leadership Broward Foundation Fun Lunch

Friday, May 1, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

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

Broward League of Cities 2015 Installation Dinner

Saturday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Congregation Kol Tikvah, Parkland

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

Tripp Scott Lunch & Learn: How to Avoid Problems & Pitfalls in International Transactions

Monday, May 4, 12:00 p.m.

Location: Tripp Scott, PA Attorneys At Law, Fort Lauderdale

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

South Florida Symphony Orchestra: Svetlana Smolina

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Leiser Opera Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

Challenges and Accomplishments of Brazilian Business in Europe, Asia and North America

Thursday, May 7, 10 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Tower Forum Breakfast: Pedestrians vs. cars: how can we be friendly to both?

Thursday, May 7, 7:00 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, Fort Lauderdale

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

ULI Southeast Florida/Caribbean - Transportation & Development: Public Private Partnerships in Development

Friday, May 8, 8:00 a.m.

Location: FAU Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward Education Foundation Gala

Saturday, May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

South Florida Business Journal - Sales Crash Course

Wednesday, May 13, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale

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

City of Fort Lauderdale Transportation Summit: STREETSMARTS

Wednesday, May 20, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward College Speaker Series presented by Hoffman's Chocolates: Chris Berman

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

South Florida Business Journal's Influential Business Women Awards

Thursday, May 21, 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Signature Grand, Davie

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

Business for the Arts Broward Cultural Tour

Friday, May 22, 9:00 a.m.

Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale

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

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit 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.

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

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