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

**Top Stories**

- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Launches Economic Development Planning Effort
- Florida Tax Watch Report: Enterprise Zones Fill Vital Need
- State’s Tech Industry Added 12,500 Jobs Last Year
- Reserve Space Now in the Alliance’s Annual, Award-Winning Who’s Who in Economic Development Directory
- Port Everglades Harbor Deepening & Widening Project Reaches Milestone in Federal Approval Process
- Florida Small Businesses Report $155 Million in Total Projected Sales from EFI-Led Trip to Arab Health 2015
- Broward College Starts Film Program
- AOD Software Business Expanding Rapidly

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

**Business Briefs, Alliance Member News**

**NEW: Featured Property of the Month**

**Upcoming Alliance Events**

**Upcoming Enterprise Florida and Member/Partner Events**

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**Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Launches Economic Development Planning Effort**

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance has launched a comprehensive economic development strategic and tactical planning project designed to identify targeted business sectors and build on a Headquarters Recruitment Strategy completed in 2009. Boyette Strategic Advisors, an economic development and public policy consulting firm that worked with the Alliance in development of the Headquarters strategy, has been engaged to conduct the new study.

The Targeted Sector Analysis and Blueprint 2.0 will guide economic development efforts in the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area over the next five years. This project includes a thorough assessment of the area’s unique assets, which will be obtained through both qualitative and quantitative research; a determination of the targeted business sectors that are the best fit for the area; and development of strategic and tactical recommendations.

“This effort will provide a comprehensive look at how the Greater Fort Lauderdale area is prepared to compete for high-value jobs and investment in key sectors,” said Bob Swindell, President and CEO of the Alliance. “It will build on the tremendous success we have experienced in targeting corporate headquarters operations by ensuring that we have the best possible strategies for attracting businesses within all of our identified targets.” To read more, please click here.
Florida Tax Watch Report: Enterprise Zones Fill Vital Need
Some of Florida's most economically depressed areas are benefiting from a small state economic development program, according to Florida TaxWatch, the state's spending watchdog. In their latest independent report, Florida TaxWatch calls on the Legislature to revise and extend the state's Enterprise Zone program, designed to revitalize and redevelop distressed, blighted areas in Florida. To read more, please click here.

State's Tech Industry Added 12,500 Jobs Last Year
Florida's tech industry added 12,500 net jobs between 2013 and 2014, an increase of 4.2 percent, according to Cyberstates 2015, an analysis of the U.S. tech industry published by CompTIA on Tuesday. The state has a total of 307,100 technology jobs, the study says, with the bulk of job growth in computer systems design and engineering services. Florida also saw a rise in computer support specialists, software developers, computer systems analysts and telecom equipment installers and repairers. This story, by Marcia Pounds, ran in the Sun-Sentinel on February 11. To read more, please click here.

Reserve Space Now in the Alliance’s Annual, Award-Winning Who's Who in Economic Development Directory
The Alliance’s annual, award-winning Who's Who in Economic Development membership directory is currently in production. Please consider placing an ad. Targeted circulation is approximately 3,500 business leaders and organizations within Broward County and site selectors/business decision makers considering relocation within the Greater Fort Lauderdale area. The book is a resource directory of key businesses used by media, public relations and the business community. For more information, please contact Gail Bulfin or Tania Vinaixa at 954.627.0133 or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org.

Port Everglades Harbor Deepening & Widening Project Reaches Milestone in Federal Approval Process
Broward County's Port Everglades reached a major milestone in its effort to deepen and widen its navigational channels and turning basin as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Review Board approved the final environmental and economic feasibility studies for the project. The Civil Works Review Board met today in Washington, DC, to discuss various aspects of the project before unanimously approving that the plan move forward for state and agency review. There will now be a 30-day comment period for oversight agencies, followed by time for the Corps to address any questions. The final step in the Corps’ project approval process is a Chief of Engineers Report recommending the project to Congress for construction authorization. The Chief's Report is anticipated by the end of May 2015. To read more, please click here.

Florida Small Businesses Report $155 Million in Total Projected Sales from EFI-Led Trip to Arab Health 2015
Recently, Secretary of Commerce and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) president & CEO, Gray Swoope, announced that the EFI-led trip to Arab Health resulted in more than $155 million in total projected sales by Florida small businesses in attendance. EFI hosted the Florida Showcase at Arab Health 2015, exhibiting 32 small and mid-sized companies marketing their medical and healthcare products to an international audience. To read more, please click here.

Broward College Starts Film Program
There may be soon be a lot more filming going on at Broward College. This fall, the college plans to launch a program where students can earn an associate of science degree in film production technology. It’s for those who seek entry-level employment in potential careers such as camera operator, video editor, film production crew, sound editor, producer, director and cinematographer. This story, by Scott Travis, ran in the Sun Sentinel on February 11. To read more, please click here.

AOD Software Business Expanding Rapidly
A senior-living software firm is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing software developers in South Florida. AOD Software, based in Coral Springs, added 57 employees last year and plans to add a similar count in 2015.The company expanded into home health care through an acquisition in Boca Raton and plans expansion in Latin America, said Aric Agmon, chief executive. This article, by Marcia Pounds, ran in the Sun Sentinel on February 11. To read more, please click here.

BCPS 2015 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year Finalists Announced
Charismatic, dedicated, committed, extraordinary leader, champion, innovative, insightful and passionate are just a few of the words used by their colleagues to describe this year’s top finalists for Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) 2015 Principal of the Year and 2015 Assistant Principal of the Year. Six outstanding school leaders, selected as finalists in each category, will vie to be named the District's top education leaders. The winner will be announced at the annual Caliber Awards recognizing Broward’s outstanding employees on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at 5:30 p.m., at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. To read more, please click here.

Everglades High School Joins Global Community of Cambridge Schools
Broward County Public Schools is proud to announce that Everglades High School has been awarded Cambridge International School
status by Cambridge International Examinations. Beginning in the 2015/16 school year, Everglades High Schools will offer Cambridge programs and qualifications, including The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program. To read more, please click here.

**BCPS Seniors Named Candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program**

Congratulations to four Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) seniors who are candidates for the prestigious 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. The students are among over 3,900 candidates selected across the country for their exceptional performance on the College Board SAT or ACT assessments. Each year, up to 141 students are named as U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the Nation’s highest honors for high school students. The Scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. To read more, please click here.

**BCPS Coordinators of Peer Counseling Programs Earn National Recognition**

Recently, the School Board of Broward County, honored Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Peer Counseling Coordinators for earning a special distinction. They are now the first in Florida to receive National Peer Program Professionals Certification. This certification provides training and skills necessary to enhance peer counseling programs in schools. In addition, Superintendent Robert W. Runcie was recognized for being named the 2015 Champion of Peer Helping by the National Association of Peer Program Professionals, for his support of peer counseling programs. To read more, please click here.

**J.P. Taravella High School DECA Program Receives National Recognition by National Fallen Firefighters Foundation**

Congratulations to J.P. Taravella High School Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) for being recognized by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) as the first high school in the nation to successfully organize and run a 110 story stair climb to benefit the NFFF. To read more, please click here.

**Broward College Only State College in Florida Honored by Junior Achievement with U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award**

Junior Achievement USA® (JA) recently announced that it will honor Broward College with one of 50 2013-2014 U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Awards. The organizations receiving the awards provided Junior Achievement with significant volunteer resources during the 2013-14 school year. The awards will be presented at a gala dinner on March 10 in New York City.

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**Business Briefs and Alliance Member News**

**Alliance Member Companies in Bold**

A Fort Lauderdale business has won a $5 million contract to build a solar-energy project for defense contractor Lockheed Martin in the Tampa area, one of the largest solar investments by a business in the Sunshine State. The contract went to Advanced Green Technologies, a subsidiary of Advanced Roofing of Fort Lauderdale. It will be the biggest Florida project yet for the 7-year-old solar contractor, based on the amount of energy that the solar installation can produce. To read more, please click here.

In the spirit of celebrating creativity and world-class entertainment, Broadway director and Broward resident Neil Goldberg, founder of the internationally-renowned Cirque Dreams entertainment brand and production company, is donating his talent and theatrical expertise to Broward 100 - Celebrating the Art of Community. To read more, please click here.

Governor Rick Scott recently announced the appointment of Britt Sikes, general manager of the Division of Enterprise Accounts for DEX Imaging, as Chairman of the CareerSource Florida Board of Directors. The 34-member board oversees workforce development policy and investment for the state of Florida. To read more, please click here.

Alliance company, COI access, was recently featured in South Florida Business and Wealth: “Tell Carlos Arboleda and Mike Moore that there seems to be an air of mystery about what they do – even after looking at their COI Access website – and you are likely to get a big grin. Going beyond the website’s catch phrase, ‘Connecting Centers of Influence,’ reveals an intriguing mix of how they are strategists, recruiters, talent advisors, matchmakers and troubleshooters.” To read the full article, by Kevin Gale, please click here.

110 Tower, the award-winning, LEED® Gold certified, Class A office building in downtown Fort Lauderdale has announced that it has leased 51,289 square feet of office space over the last 12 months. New tenants to the building include Sato Global Solutions, a new to market global technology company; Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard Smith, a national, full-service law firm; Shook Hardy, an international law firm; Empire Executive Office, virtual office suites; and Dunkin Donuts. Cushman & Wakefield, 110 Tower’s leasing team, noted that the building continues to attract a variety of businesses from across different industries.

Heico Corp., which makes parts for planes and space craft, has announced another acquisition: Harter Aerospace in Tempe, Ariz. Harter operates a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility for jets in the Phoenix area and employs about 75 people, Eric Mendelson, president of Heico’s flight support group, said. To read more, please click here.
The Leadership Broward Foundation will be conducting a food drive to benefit The Pantry of Broward from March 1 to March 31. The Pantry is an area 501(c)3 that serves seniors living on low fixed incomes and grandparents raising their grandchildren. Please bring your donations to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance at 110 East Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. All non-perishable goods are welcome but items needed in particular include: tuna, cereal, canned goods, peanut butter & jelly, macaroni & cheese, Hamburger Helper, canned meats, ravioli and soups. We are grateful for your help. Should you have any questions, please contact Todd Holt at 954-627-0124 or tholt@gflalliance.org.

Traci Miller, vice president business development and marketing for Miller Construction Company, has been elected and installed as president of the South Florida Chapter of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association. To read more, please click here.

Ocean RoRo carrier SC Line consolidates and reaffirms its USA SERVICE commitment from Broward County's Port Everglades to Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and the Caribbean with the arrival of its new Roll On / Roll Off cargo ship, M/V Caroline Russ, to the South Florida seaport. To read more, please click here.

The Port Everglades Advocacy Team, chaired by Terry Stiles, Stiles, Bob Swindell, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Raymond Jones, Florida East Coast Railways, and Alliance PEAT Staff Director Gail Bulfin traveled to Tallahassee in early February to share the importance of Port Everglades to the economies of Broward County, the State of Florida and the nation. Following are photos from that trip.

The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University has announced that Daniel C. Flynn, Ph.D., Vice President for Research at Florida Atlantic University, has been appointed to serve on the Florida Atlantic Research & Development Authority (FARDA). To read more, please click here.

Hernandez Construction, an affiliate of full-service commercial real estate firm, Stiles, recently announced the appointment of Steve Cassetta as Chief Financial Officer. Cassette will be responsible for the group’s financial operations while helping to drive its long-term...
strategic growth plan. Hernandez Construction specializes in the construction of build-to-suit projects serving the commercial and industrial sector. To read more, please click here.

Featured Property of the Month

3700 Lakeside Drive
3700 Lakeside Drive, Miramar
Listed by CBRE
Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com Click Here

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance International Action Team Meeting (Members Only)
Wednesday, March 4, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: GrayRobinson
For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 or at lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Members Only)
Thursday, March 12, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: TBA
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 or at hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council (Members Only)
Tuesday, March 17  8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Location:  TBA
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Members Only)
Wednesday, March 18, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Location: TBA
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 or at hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Governor Council (Members Only)
Wednesday, March 25,  8:30 – 10:00 a.m.
Location: TBA
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

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@gflalliance.org or Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

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Enterprise Florida Events

Dubai International Boat Show
March 3 – 7, 2015
Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates
For more information, click here.

CeBIT 2015
March 16 – 20
Location: Hannover, Germany
For more information, please click here.

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

Member/Partner Events

USDOT Webinar: Understanding the Travel Needs of People with Disabilities
Tuesday, March 3, 1:00 p.m.
Location: Online
For more information, please click here.

LaunchCode & Idea Center Reception
Wednesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m.
Location: MDC Wolfson Campus, Miami
For more information, please click here.

South Florida Business Journal: Critical Conversations: Real Estate
Thursday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.
Location: Interiors By Steven G., Pompano Beach
For more information, please click here.

38th Annual Broward County Waterway Cleanup
Saturday, March 7, 9:00 a.m.
Location: Various, Broward County
For more information, please click here.

South Florida Business Journal: Social Media Crash Course
Thursday, March 12, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale.
For more information, please click here.

Center for Hemispheric Policy: Brazil's Political and Economic Outlook
Friday, March 13, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Westin Colonnade Coral Gables
For more information, please click here.

DeVry University South Florida Entrepreneur & Media Expo
Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m.
Location: DeVry University Miramar Campus
For more information, please click here.

CeBIT 2015
March 16 – 20
Location: Hannover, Germany
For more information, please click here.

South Florida InfraGard - Focus on Banking and Finance, Credit Card/ATM and Internet Banking Fraud
Monday, March 16, 9:00 a.m.
Location: Nova Southeastern University, Davie
For more information, please click here.

Jim Moran Institute Expert Speaker Series - Zalmi Duchman
Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Urban League of Broward County, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Center for Hemispheric Policy: Chile's Ambassador to the US
Wednesday, March 18, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Hyatt Regency Coral Gables
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce Downtowner of the Year honoring Michael Weymouth
Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m.
Location: Global Event Center at First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

FAU 2015 Gala
Saturday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.
Location: FAU Stadium, Boca Raton
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Henderson's Mind, Body, & Soul-utions Celebrating Wellness Gala
Saturday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hollywood
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Broward College Speaker Series presented by Hoffman's Chocolates: Elizabeth Smart
Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Florida Chamber of Commerce International Days
April 7-9
Location: Florida State University Conference Center, Tallahassee
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Broward College Speaker Series presented by Hoffman's Chocolates: Doris Kearns Goodwin
Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

United Way of Broward County Wine Women & Shoes
Thursday, April 23, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Gallery of Amazing Things
For more information, please visit [click here](#).

Walk Like MADD presented by Ultimate Software
Sunday, April 26, 7:00 a.m.
Location: Huizenga Plaza, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please visit [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.

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


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

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