



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

January 30, 2015

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

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- Charter Schools USA Announces Relocation and Expansion of National Corporate Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale
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[Governor Announces Jobs and Unemployment Numbers at SeaLand Grand Opening](#)

On January 23, Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida businesses added 11,500 private-sector jobs in December 2014. The number of private-sector jobs added statewide in November 2014 was also revised up to 39,900 new jobs, 1,300 more jobs than reported last month. Since December 2010, Florida has added 728,500 private-sector jobs. Florida's statewide unemployment rate in December was 5.6 percent, the lowest since April 2008. Governor Scott made the announcement at the grand opening of SeaLand, a leading ocean transportation company that will create 65 new jobs with a capital investment of \$350,000 in Miramar.

Since December 2010, Florida's unemployment rate has dropped 5.5 percentage points, from 11.1 percent down now to 5.6 percent in December 2014. Florida's unemployment rate has declined or held steady over the month for 49 of the last 52 months. Florida's December unemployment rate is also down 0.2 percentage point from last month, and down 0.7 percentage point from the December 2013 rate of 6.3 percent. **Broward County continues to lead the state with the lowest unemployment rate of all large urban counties for 23 months in a row, now at 4.5 percent.** To read more, please [click here](#).

[Charter Schools USA Announces Relocation and Expansion of National Corporate Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale](#)

Charter Schools USA announced the relocation and expansion of its national corporate headquarters in Fort Lauderdale. Officials from the company and its location advisory consultants Mitchell Millowitz and Bradley Griggs of Newmark Grubb Knight Frank worked closely with the Office of Florida Governor Rick Scott, the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council and Enterprise Florida to win the multi-state competitive economic development project. The project will result in the addition of 73 new jobs at an average salary of approximately \$60,000 along with retaining 188 existing Florida jobs. The Company will invest \$1.3 million in capital and relocate its current headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, where it will lease over 43,000 square feet of space at the Radice II office building located at 800 Corporate Drive in Fort Lauderdale. The state and local incentives approved by Florida and the City of

Fort Lauderdale total \$365,000 using the performance-based Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund program. To read more, please [click here](#).

Kellstrom Defense Expands in Miramar

Governor Rick Scott recently announced Kellstrom Defense Aerospace, Inc., a Merex Group company, will expand its South Florida operations to the IDI Corporate Park 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. Governor Scott said, "Over the last four years Florida's businesses and the hardworking people of Florida have created more than 700,000 new jobs, and we are excited that companies like Kellstrom Defense continue to grow. These new jobs will give even more Miramar residents the opportunities they need to succeed and provide for their families. We will keep Florida working to grow jobs for all our families so we can become the global leader for job creation." 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@gflliance.org.

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



Broward County School Board Adopts Resolution Establishing the Bond Oversight Committee

On Tuesday, January 27, during a Special School Board Meeting, the School Board of Broward County unanimously adopted Resolution 15-106, which establishes the new Bond Oversight Committee. The School Board vote and adoption followed multiple, in-depth discussions by Board members, Superintendent Robert W. Runcie and District staff, as well as input from the community. The nine-member Bond Oversight Committee is an independent citizens' committee, formed to ensure the District's SMART initiative is transparent and that the District honors its commitments to the community. On November 4, 2014, Broward County voters approved the District's \$800 million General Obligation Bond, which will provide the funds necessary for the District to meet critical school needs, as well as make investments in music, arts and athletics as part of SMART. To read more, please [click here](#).

BCPS LEEO Program Receives \$135,000 Grant From JP Morgan Chase Foundation

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) has been awarded \$135,000 for its Linking Education and Employment Outcomes (LEEEO) program by the JP Morgan Chase Foundation. Under this endowment, LEEEO will partner with the National Academy Foundation (NAF), an educational nonprofit organization, to provide paid internships to eligible students during the summer of 2015. This project will bring high-quality learning and work-based experiences to students through relevant project-based learning with the additional component of businesses serving as both mentors and employers. Broward Education Foundation and BCPS, in conjunction with J Strategies, Citrix, Broward College and NAF, support the development of LEEEO and the Work-Based Experience Project. To read more please [click here](#).

Broward College Partners with the School Board of Broward County to Create Mentoring Program for Minority Males

Broward College has partnered with the School Board of Broward County to support and advance the Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders initiative by creating a mentoring program for minority males attending Nova High School and Deerfield Beach High School. This program combines peer and group mentoring, and provides Broward College students under the guidance of a faculty member the opportunity to help current high school students through the sometimes difficult transition to college or the workforce. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward College Introduces Innovation Hub through Partnership with Fort Lauderdale Strikers

Broward College officials recently introduced its new business incubator, the Innovation Hub at Broward College, at an open house on its Cypress Creek location. As part of the event, the College celebrated its partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, who will be collaborating with the incubator as they seek innovative solutions in sports business. Brazilian soccer legend Ronaldo, who is a part-owner of the Strikers, joined Broward College officials, along with Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Jesse Panuccio and other local business leaders for a tour of the business incubator and discussion on possible opportunities. "The Broward College Innovation Hub has so much to offer to the community and is certain to have a local economic impact," said Broward College President J. David Armstrong, Jr. "This facility will be a great opportunity to encourage the exchange of ideas, attract and retain talent for local start-up companies, and foster leadership and individual empowerment." To read more, please [click here](#).

Nova Middle School Inaugurates New Courtroom for Law Studies Program

Nova Middle School celebrated the ribbon cutting and grand opening of its new Law Studies Program Courtroom on Friday, January 9th. The ribbon cutting ceremony was followed by special presentations and an inaugural mock trial led by students of the Nova Middle School Law Studies Program. Nova Middle School is one of only three public middle schools in the state with a full-time dedicated

courtroom. The Law Studies Program, now in its eighth year, has served nearly 2,000 students interested in pursuing legal studies. To read more, please [click here](#).

BCPS Awarded Two-Year Federal Grant from Project AWARE

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) has been awarded a two-year Project AWARE grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant will support the training of school personnel and other adults who interact with youth in both school settings and communities to detect and respond to mental illness in children and youth in the Broward community. Individuals will be trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA), a course that teaches participants how to help youth who are developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The training will help them to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward College selected as recipient of 2014 MRAA Technical Scholarship

Broward College was recently selected as a recipient of the 2014 Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) Technical Scholarship, which helps train students for technical careers in the recreational boating industry by expanding marine technical offerings and graduating more qualified marine technicians each year. For the first time, nearly 40 marine technical programs across North America were invited to apply, and only three were chosen for the scholarship. For more information, contact Anthony Petriello, Broward College's associate dean of the automotive and marine programs, at 954-201-8621 or apetriello@broward.edu.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall Discusses Energy Workforce at Broward College

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall recently visited Broward College's North Campus to participate in a roundtable with nearly 30 representatives from local businesses and industries, non-governmental organizations, disadvantaged communities and higher educational institutions to discuss the outlook and needs of the current and future energy workforce development system. "It was an honor to welcome Deputy Secretary of Energy Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall to Broward College," said Broward College's North Campus President Avis Proctor, Ed.D. "The roundtable was a rare opportunity that allowed many diverse groups and organizations across the community to come together and share their ideas with the Department of Energy on how to improve access and increase completion in STEM fields while displaying our strong connections with the manufacturing industry." To read more, please [click here](#).

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

While negotiations for several international trade agreements are in progress, business leaders, including Michael Lassner, President of **Allied Steel Buildings** and Mike King, CEO of **AeroTurbine** met with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Robert Holleyman, and other senior administration officials to discuss how international trade policy affects their businesses. To read more, please [click here](#).

Surrounded by family, friends and a multitude of supporters, **Broward County** Commissioner Mark D. Bogen was officially sworn into office to represent district 2 residents. "I am so honored to be here representing district two on the County Commission and I am so grateful to everyone who has helped me make this a reality," said Commissioner Bogen. "There is a saying that an idea is only as good as its execution and the idea and the desire to run for county commission really became a reality because of the execution of so many people." To read more, please [click here](#).

A group of renowned South Florida artists is set to create 10 public artworks as part of the **Broward 100** centennial celebration VisualEYES. Each artist was matched to a County commission district in which they will work closely with residents to understand the social issues and flavor of their neighborhoods. This innovative and interactive research will allow the artists to design murals that speak to the communities with authenticity, while paying tribute to the County's 100th year milestone. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County's Port Everglades completely remodeled its sixth cruise terminal in five years with \$24 million worth of renovations and upgrades designed for greater efficiency and guest convenience. Cruise Terminal 4 officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that also celebrated Broward 100, the County's centennial year and commitment to the arts. The ceremony was attended by travel agents, elected officials and cruise line executives who toured the modernized cruise terminal and were entertained by grant recipients from Broward's Cultural Division. To read more, please [click here](#).

Juan J. Flores, recently the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) State Freight, Logistics and Passenger Operations Administrator, has joined **Broward County's Port Everglades** as the Assistant to the Port Director for Intermodal Programs, a new position reporting to Chief Executive & Port Director Steven Cernak. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County's Port Everglades, already Florida's leading container port moving more than one-million TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) annually, the standard for measuring containers), is partnering with public and private entities on several multi-million-dollar landside infrastructure improvements designed to improve connections with South Florida's major highway and railroad systems. To read more, please [click here](#).

Throughout February, **Broward College** will celebrate Black History Month with several events on its campuses. All events are open to the public. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Broward MPO is celebrating the start of construction of a five-year \$100 Million Mobility Program. This program will fund approximately 90 bicycle and pedestrian improvements spanning 12 cities throughout Broward County. These projects have been designed to incorporate Complete Streets principles that focus on improving the safety and experience for pedestrians and bicyclists. The groundbreaking event will be held in Hollywood at the SE corner of Sheridan Street and 66th Ave. from 9 am to 10:30 a.m. on February 3rd. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE Senior Vice President Diana Parker was recently honored by Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Miami, a chapter of the national organization focusing on the advancement of men and women in commercial real estate, with an "Outstanding Leader" Award. "Diana is a powerful force in the Miami commercial real estate community for her vision, energy and leadership – this is an appropriate award for a deserving professional," said Ken Krasnow, South Florida Managing Director. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE arranged the sale of a 72,718-square-foot office building situated on 5.97 acres in the Spectrum Office Park in Fort Lauderdale. The building at 1801 W. Spectrum Boulevard, currently occupied by Citrix Systems, was acquired from Flotrix, Inc. for \$8.48 million. CBRE represented the seller. "While on the surface this appeared to be a simple transaction, in reality it was a complex execution due to the short-term nature of the lease to Citrix," said Dominic Montazemi, First Vice President of CBRE Investment Properties. To read more, please [click here](#).

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) recently announced details about its plans to build substantially more solar energy capacity as part of its ongoing strategy of advancing clean energy while keeping electricity affordable for customers. Before the end of 2016, FPL intends to build three new solar photovoltaic (PV) power plants that are being designed to cost-effectively complement other major system improvements, which include the retirement of some of the company's oldest fossil fuel-burning units and the continued investment in clean, fuel-efficient, 24-hour power generated from U.S.-produced natural gas and zero-emissions nuclear fuel. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce 2014 Business Woman of the Year nominees **Kathy Koch, President of Ambit Advertising and Public Relations**, and Anne Sallee, Regional Director of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association - Broward Chapter.

GUNSTER, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that shareholder James B. Davis has been appointed to the board of directors for the Community Foundation of Broward. Davis leads Gunster's tax law practice, and works out of the firm's Fort Lauderdale office. To read more, please [click here](#).

Hollywood-based **HEICO** Corp., a maker of parts and electronics for planes and other aircraft, has made a major acquisition overseas. Heico bought 80 percent of Aeroworks International Holdings B.V., a Netherlands-based parts maker that has factory operations in Thailand and Laos. Aeroworks' Thai operations employ about 600 people making metal and composite parts used mainly in airplane interiors, said Eric Mendelson, who leads Heico's flight support group. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship** of the Florida State University College of Business will host the third high-profile speaker in its Advice Straight Up: An Expert Entrepreneur Speaker Series in South Florida on Tuesday, March 17, at the Urban League of Broward Country. This breakfast lecture series features nationally recognized business leaders from some of the nation's best companies to share experiences and insights on building innovative businesses. To read more, please [click here](#).

Leadership Broward Foundation will host the first ever Expedition Leadership Summit with dynamic keynote speakers and interactive workshops designed to inspire and energize local leaders on Friday, Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty Six, 2301 SE 17th St, Fort Lauderdale. Participants will learn from several inspiring keynote speakers throughout the day, including Howard Putnam, former CEO of Southwest Airlines, Brad Meltzer, bestselling author and host of the television show Brad Meltzer's Lost History, and Steve Nudelberg, Principal Thinker with On the Ball Marketing. To read more, please [click here](#).

Patriot National, Inc. announced recently that it has priced its previously announced initial public offering of 8,315,700 shares of its common stock at a public offering price of \$14.00. Patriot National is offering 7,350,000 shares of its common stock and the selling stockholders named in the registration statement are offering 965,700 shares of common stock. The underwriters may also purchase first from Patriot National up to an additional 1,102,500 shares of common stock and second from the selling stockholders up to an additional 144,855 shares of common stock, in each case, solely to cover over-allotments, if any, within 30 days from the date of the offering. To read more, please [click here](#).

The world's largest Kia store will open Sunday in Sunrise, and there are plenty of reasons why the **Rick Case Automotive Group** invested \$20 million to build the massive dealership right where it is. To read more, please [click here](#).

Andrew Duffell, President and CEO of the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University**, has been selected as a winner in the economic development profession's 40 Under 40 Awards, the only award of its kind recognizing young talent in the economic development profession. To read more, please [click here](#).

Weston-based **Ultimate Software** has been recognized as one of the most engaged workplaces in North America. The annual awards, the Achievers' 50 Most Engaged Workplaces in North America, recognize employers that display leadership and innovation in engaging their employees. Achievers is a private technology company based in San Francisco. To read more, please [click here](#).

The office of **MGM General Contracting, Inc.** is proud to announce that due to remarkable growth, it has moved to a new location at 1500 W. Cypress Creek Rd. Suite 415, Fort Lauderdale. For more information visit www.mgmgc.com

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Featured Property of the Month



110 Tower
110 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale
Listed by Cushman & Wakefield
Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com
[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Members Only)

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

Location: TBA

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

Alliance Council Connect (Members Only)

Tuesday, Thursday, February 26 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Sonesta Fort Lauderdale, 999 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale

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

BioContact Québec 2015

February 25 – 26, 2015

Location: Quebec City, Canada

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

Dubai International Boat Show

March 3 – 7, 2015

Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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

Broward Complete Streets Groundbreaking Ceremony

Tuesday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hollywood

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

South Florida Business Journal Critical Conversations: Real Estate

Thursday, February 5, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Interiors by Stephen G, Pompano Beach

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

Florida's Transportation Visioning Regional Forums

Thursday, February 5, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Location: Delray Beach Old School Square Gymnasium, 51 North Swinton Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33444

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

Leadership Broward: Expedition Leadership Summit

Friday, February 6, 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 2301 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale

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

Arts Mean Business Breakfast

Friday, February 6, 7:30 a.m.

Location: NSU's Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale

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

Center for Hemispheric Policy: Venezuela

Friday, February 6, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Coral Gables

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

South Florida Symphony Orchestra

Friday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church, Fort Lauderdale

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

BIOFLORIDA The Saturday Exchange at SHL Pharma

Saturday, February 7, 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: SHL Pharma, 588 Jim Moran Boulevard, Deerfield Beach

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

Broward College Speaker Series presented by Hoffman's Chocolates: Mark Halpern

Wednesday, February 18, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFTA: Enterprise Network Security/ PCI Compliance

Thursday, February 19, 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Thomas University School of Law, 16401 Northwest 37th Avenue, Miami Gardens

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

The Village Square: What is Holding Back Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Thursday, February 19, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

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

Center for Hemispheric Policy: Energy Developments in Latin America

Friday, February 20, 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Conrad Miami

For more information, please <http://www.miami.edu/index.php/chp>/click here.

Blue Wild Ocean Adventure and Marine Art Expo

February 21-22

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

Smart Growth Partnership Forum - Financing Development

Thursday, February 26

Location: IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach

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

2015 South Florida Business Journal Best Places to Work Awards

Thursday, February 26, 11:30 a.m.

Location: The Signature Grand, Davie

For more information, please [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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