



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

June 30, 2015

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

Top Stories:

- Sitel to Open New Facility, Hiring 350 Employees in Pompano Beach
- Port Everglades Deepening and Widening Project Approved
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Participates in Paris Air Show
- Study Says Miami-Fort Lauderdale Ranks No. 2 In Startup Activity
- Alliance Economic Sourcebook Advertising Space Available

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

Business Briefs, Alliance Member News

Featured Property of the Month

Upcoming Alliance Events

Upcoming Enterprise Florida and Member/Partner Events

Top Stories

Sitel to Open New Facility, Hiring 350 Employees in Pompano Beach

Sitel, a leading global customer care provider, has announced that it is establishing a new customer experience center and will hire more than 1,000 full-time employees in Pompano Beach at 2500 NW 19th Street, Pompano Beach. Sitel is hiring at every level, including management positions. 350 team members are needed immediately to accommodate the site's launch in the first week of August. The Pompano Beach team will provide excellent customer care services for a large financial services institution. To read more, please [click here](#).

Port Everglades Deepening and Widening Project Approved

Through the Alliance's Port Everglades Advocacy Team, chaired by Terry Stiles, the Alliance and a wide coalition of key business, community and governmental partners have worked tirelessly toward this recent achievement:

Broward County's Port Everglades recently received a signed Chief of Engineers Report from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that clears the way for the Port to begin the next phase of deepening and widening its channels, and allows the project to be included in federal legislation expected in 2016 that will authorize similar water and navigation-related projects. "After almost two decades of study and research, we are confident that the Corps has developed a plan that keeps Port Everglades competitive globally so that jobs are sustained and created locally," said Broward County Mayor Tim Ryan. "The plan also uses innovative solutions to address valid environmental concerns that have been raised by environmental stakeholders." To read more, please [click here](#).

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Participates in Paris Air Show

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance joined local and state aviation and business leaders at this year's International Paris Air Show.

The event, over a hundred years old, is the largest and longest-running aviation/aerospace trade show in the world. Since its launch, the Show has been at the heart of developments in the global aerospace market, for which it has become the most important meeting place over the years. To read more, please [click here](#).

Study Says Miami-Fort Lauderdale Ranks No. 2 In Startup Activity

A Missouri-based nonprofit studying trends in entrepreneurial activity ranked the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area No. 2 on its list for startup business activity. The Kauffman Foundation's annual report ranks 40 metropolitan areas based on their startup activity. This year, Austin, Texas ranked No. 1. The top 10 list included San Jose, Calif.; Los Angeles; Denver, Colo.; San Francisco; New York; Houston; San Diego, Calif.; and San Antonio, Texas. This article, by Alexander Gonzalez, ran on WLRN.com. To read more, please [click here](#).

Alliance Economic Sourcebook Advertising Space Available

The Alliance is once again working with the *South Florida Business Journal* to publish its annual award-winning Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Economic Sourcebook and Market Profile. This valuable guide serves as a primary marketing tool to promote the entire Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area. 11,000 copies of the Sourcebook are distributed in a number of ways including to Alliance members, included in national and international marketing kits, available at Chambers of Commerce and Broward County libraries, at select local hotels, distributed in the *South Florida Business Journal*, and can be downloaded on the Alliance website. The Economic Sourcebook provides Alliance members with an outstanding marketing opportunity. For additional information, please contact Yasmine Gahed at 954-949-7504 or ygahed@bizjournals.com.

[Back to top](#)

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



“BCPS Class of 2015” Ad Published in the *Sun Sentinel*

Did you see the full-page ad saluting Broward County Public Schools' Class of 2015 in the *Sun Sentinel* on June 21 and June 28?

This ad, sponsored by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the *Sun Sentinel* highlights students from each of the Broward County Public Schools high schools, along with recognizing outstanding senior students.

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



New River Middle School Marine Magnet Program's Remotely Operated Vehicle Club Heads to National Competition

Students in New River Middle School Marine Science Magnet Program's Marine ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Club are getting ready to take on their peers from around the country. The students are competing in the National Sea Perch Challenge, which takes place at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, on May 29-30, 2015. The competition includes more than 100 teams from across the nation. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward Virtual School Ambassadors of Hope Support Plantation General Hospital's Newborns in Need of Specialized Care

Broward Virtual School Ambassadors of Hope members and mentees recently participated in "A Day of Hope" at Plantation General Hospital to support the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Throughout the day, ambassadors created "no-sew quilts" that the hospital will use to protect premature infants from harmful elements such as light.

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

Miramar High School Wins "Closing the Gap" Award By College For Every Student

Congratulations to Miramar High School for being named a winner of the "Closing the Gap" award, sponsored by College For Every Student (CFES). Miramar High is the only school in Florida to earn the award and one of 17 schools to win nationally. In all, 52 schools from 21 states applied for the "Closing the Gap" award, which provides special programs to prepare students for college and career success. To read more, please [click here](#).

Piper High School Business Student Headed to New York for NFTE National Business Plan Competition

Piper High School student, Kevin Diniz competed in the ninth annual Ignite Entrepreneurship Youth BizPlan Challenge, sponsored by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). Kevin along with other budding high school entrepreneurs representing four schools from Broward and Miami-Dade County pitched their businesses to a panel of entrepreneurs, community and business leaders. To read more, please [click here](#).

Plantation Middle School Receives International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Authorization

Plantation Middle School has become the newest member of an ever-growing global community of schools offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) in 144 different countries. The IB has a positive impact on students, schools and their wider communities with learning going well beyond the classroom. Its unique and innovative approach to learning means both students and teachers are genuinely engaged with the programs and benefit from being a part of an unparalleled global network. Students are able to participate in international conferences and educators work with their peers internationally to ensure that the IB remains at the cutting edge of international education. To read more, please [click here](#).

Western High School Student Named 2015 Math and Science Scholar

Congratulations to Western High School student Nicolas Pena, who is one of four high school seniors in the nation selected by the Council of Great City Schools (CGCS) to receive the 2015 ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Math and Science Scholarship. The students were chosen from several hundred applicants across the country for their academic performance, leadership qualities and community involvement. This is the second consecutive year that a senior from Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) has been named one of the winners in this highly competitive national scholarship program. To read more, please [click here](#).

Coral Springs High School Student Wins First Place in the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's BizPlan Competition

Coral Springs High School student, Jason Ramadan, won first place in the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship's (NFTE) BizPlan Competition at the eMerge Americas Conference in Miami Beach. Jason impressed the crowd at the conference with his newly created game, "Cliff Fall," which is already a successful gaming app on the iOS platform.

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

White House Committee Selects BCPS in Expansion of Turnaround Arts Program

Recently, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities announced the expansion of its successful Turnaround Arts initiative to include three elementary schools in Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) – Bethune Elementary School, Lake Forest Elementary School and Walker Elementary School – in an effort to narrow the achievement gap and increase student engagement through the arts. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Pompano Beach High School JROTC Cadet for Being Named the 2014/15 Broward County Cadet of the Year

Congratulations to Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) Cadet Alexandria Smith from Pompano Beach High School (pictured above) for being named the 2014/15 Broward County Cadet of the Year. The Cadet of the Year was selected from the top cadets at each of the District's traditional high schools. The cadets were evaluated on their academic performance, demonstrated leadership, community service and school involvement, as well as their JROTC participation. To read more, please [click here](#).

Coral Cove Elementary School Celebrates Student Achievement

Recently, Coral Cove Elementary School celebrated receiving a school grade of "A" for the 10th consecutive year. The school received 688 points, the highest number of points received by a public school in Broward County. The learning gains demonstrated by students and the dedication of the teachers, faculty, school leaders and all of the hard-working Coral Cove team are certainly something to celebrate. During the 2014/15 school year, approximately 860 students were enrolled at Coral Cove Elementary School. The school has one of the largest Exceptional Student Education (ESE) populations in the county and more than 51 percent of families qualify for free or reduced priced lunch. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Cooper City High School for Winning the 2015 School Duel Championship

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) congratulates Cooper City High School for winning the 2015 School Duel Championship. School Duel is South Florida's premier, locally produced, academic-based television quiz show. The competition is designed to reward and showcase intellectual talent among local high schools, as well as serve as a positive educational tool for students. To read more, please [click here](#).

U.S. Congressional Staff Tour BCPS Head Start Programs

On Monday, June 1, 2015, U.S. Congressional staff members joined Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) director of Head Start and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK), Dr. Nicole Mancini, as well as the District's Legislative Affairs team, for a tour of the District's Head Start programs at Sunland Park Academy and Plantation Elementary School. Participating Congressional offices included: Senator Marco Rubio (R- Florida), Senator Bill Nelson (D- Florida), Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (FL-20), Congresswoman Lois Frankel (FL-22), Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23), Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-21) and Congresswoman Frederica Wilson (FL-24). To read more, please [click here](#).

Heron Heights Elementary School Publishes Book Titled "A Forever Family" Benefitting Children in Foster Care

The students in Amanda Rather's fourth grade class at Heron Heights Elementary School recently raised and donated \$700 to ChildNet, a Broward County community-based care organization. The class wrote and illustrated a children's book titled "A Forever Family," which tells the story of a brother and sister who find themselves in foster care.~From inception to completion, students worked all school year to develop their unique book. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County Public Schools Receives Health Literacy Grant for its Broward Community Schools Family Literacy Program Awarded by the Florida Literacy Coalition and Florida Blue Foundation

The District's Broward Community Schools Family Literacy program has been awarded a health literacy grant in the amount of \$5,000 by the Florida Literacy Coalition, through the generous support of the Florida Blue Foundation. The grant will help improve the overall health of adult English For Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students and their families through lessons and activities presented in the updated Staying Healthy curriculum in literacy classes; the creation of a student-developed Healthy Families resource guide and recipe cookbook; and the implementation of a Family Fitness Day and Health Fair, which will provide health education materials and free health services to the Family Literacy community at Broward County Public Schools (BCPS).

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

[Back to top](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

To help prevent today's roofing labor shortage from reaching crisis level, **Advanced Roofing** has joined forces with the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) in creating Florida's only state- and federally-registered, open-shop apprentice program for the roofing industry. To read more, please [click here](#).

Community leaders Jarett and Dara Levan of **BBX Capital** and Dwight and Dinah Stephenson and BrightStar Credit Union were honored for their impact on education and contributions to student achievement in Broward County at the recent Broward Education Foundation Black & White Gala that celebrated 32 years of educational excellence. Proceeds from the \$116,000 raised during the Gala benefit the Broward Education Foundation which provides support for innovative teaching to increase student learning outcomes from pre-K to grade 12; educational materials for Title 1 school students; scholarships for qualified graduating high school seniors; and fiduciary oversight for community members who join in the educational mission by establishing Foundation agency funds. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broadway Director and Cirque Dreams Founder Neil Goldberg and **Broward 100** announce the greatest Broadway-style Broward spectacle ever - "WE"... The Passion & Rhythm of the People . This one-of-a-kind, Broward County production, is part of the County's weekend-long grand finale centennial celebration, Duende, and will be performed on Saturday, October 3rd at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. To read more, please [click here](#).

Governor Rick Scott recently announced the appointment of David R. Maymon to the **Broward College** District Board of Trustees. "It is my honor to welcome David to the Board of Trustees," said John Benz, chair of the Broward College District Board of Trustees. "We look forward to working closely with him to ensure student success and assist the College in its continued development." To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE has arranged a 10-year lease for a printing company at the Fort Lauderdale Commerce Center. MOR Printing signed a lease for 24,490 square feet at 3585 NW 54 Street in Fort Lauderdale. CBRE represented the landlord, Industrial Income Trust, in the transaction. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE arranged the sale of the 73,216-square-foot Executive Airport Business Center in Fort Lauderdale. The 6.09-acre site with two single-story office/service buildings at 5101 NW 21st Avenue was acquired for \$4.6 million by TPCH Broward, LLC, a joint venture between Triton Capital, LLC and CP Highlands Fund LP, both Chicago-based investment firms. CBRE represented the seller. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE arranged the sale of the 103,316-square-foot, 4.6-acre Gateway Industrial Center in Fort Lauderdale. The asset at 2030 West McNab Road was acquired from 2030 Asset Ventures LLC by Donovan Marine, Inc., for \$5.3 million. To read more, please [click here](#).

CBRE has been retained as exclusive broker for the sale of St. Tropez, a value-add apartment property located in the highly desirable Midtown Business District of Plantation. The gated community at 8000 Cleary Boulevard includes 376 townhome-style units situated in 29 two-and three-story buildings spanning approximately 38 acres. To read more, please [click here](#).

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 president of the Planned Giving Council of Broward for the 2015-16 term. Davis previously served as vice president and programs director for the council, and he succeeds Paul Keefe as president. To read more, please [click here](#).

GrayRobinson, P.A., announced recently that Super Lawyers has named 54 attorneys as "Florida Super Lawyers" and another 12 as "Rising Stars." Super Lawyers are considered the top attorneys in the state with a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Rising Stars are the up-and-coming attorneys in the state who are 40 years old and under and have been practicing for 10 years or less. To read more, please [click here](#).

GrayRobinson, P.A., announced that Law360 has again recognized the firm as one of eight Florida Powerhouses in the publication's Regional Powerhouses series. In addition to being one of Florida's fastest-growing law firms, GrayRobinson was selected for its significant regional accomplishments over the last year. To read more, please [click here](#).

Rosy Lopez, Chief Marketing Officer at **Greenspoon Marder Law**, has recently been selected by the North Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners to serve on the **Broward Health** Foundation's Board of Directors. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship** of Florida State University College of Business will host its fifth annual South Florida Business & Leadership Conference on Wednesday, June 24, at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center. The daylong event is designed to provide high-level training and networking opportunities to entrepreneurs, business leaders and non-profit executives. The conference has sold-out the past two years. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Marine Industries Association of South Florida** is pleased to report that the Florida Legislature and Governor Rick Scott are incentivizing boaters to have repairs done in the state with the new tax cut package passed recently. To read more, please [click here](#).

Renowned for its work to preserve corals and protect sharks, **Nova Southeastern University** is expanding the scope of its marine school to include several science areas. To offer students a broader range of courses, it's merging biology, chemistry, geology, ecology, math and physics – along with oceanography – under one college as of July 1. The school's new name: The Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography. This article, by Ken Kaye, ran in the Sun Sentinel on June 9, 2015. To read more, please [click here](#).

With South Florida's demand for capital expenditure projects and tenant improvements on the rise, **Miller Construction Company** is expanding its Special Projects Group, which focuses on projects valued at under \$2 million. As one of the region's leading design/build and construction services firms, Miller has major new construction work underway. In 2014, the firm decided to form a Special Projects Group in response to clients' need for a quality resource to streamline smaller projects, according to VP Business Development Traci Miller. That strategy is already proving on target, with more than \$2 million in Special Projects Group retail, automotive and healthcare sector work under contract in 2015, Miller said. To read more, please [click here](#).

Justin J. Thorpe has joined **Miller Construction Company** as project manager, with experience overseeing more than \$450 million in complex projects from Miami-Dade through Palm Beach counties. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners, in partnership with the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** was recently awarded a Regional Innovation Science and Research Development Grant from the U.S. Department Economic Development Administration (EDA). The \$290,600 award will support a feasibility study for establishing a science and research park in northern Palm Beach County near the Scripps Research Institute and Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, both in Jupiter. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** announces that Susan Whelchel, former mayor of the City of Boca Raton, has been appointed to serve on the Florida Atlantic Research & Development Authority. Nominated by Commissioner Steven Abrams, Whelchel was appointed unanimously by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners on June 2, 2015 for a four year term beginning on June 8. Separately, nominated by Commissioner Chip LaMarca, Lonnie Maier was re-appointed unanimously by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, also on June 2, 2015. To read more, please [click here](#).

Fort Lauderdale-based **Stiles** announced recently it has closed on Sunrise Corporate Plaza, a three-story Class A suburban office property located in Sawgrass International Corporate Park in Sunrise, one of South Florida's largest and most successful business parks. Developed in 1999, this institutional quality asset is currently 100% leased and encompasses 106,648 rentable square feet on nearly eight acres. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that Ultimate Software has been named to Glassdoor's "Highest-Rated CEOs" list for 2015. Glassdoor, a jobs and careers marketplace, released its annual report highlighting the top executives, this year recognizing leaders in countries throughout North America and parts of Europe. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that the company has been ranked #6 of the "100 Best Workplaces for Millennials in the U.S." Produced by Great Place to Work® and FORTUNE, the list is based entirely on employee surveys from published Great Place to Work® Reviews. Ultimate Software ranks in the top 10 places to work for Millennials nationally for the second consecutive year in the Great Place to Work® Reviews. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Broward's **South Florida Business & Wealth** Magazine Up and Comer Finalists representing Alliance Member companies: Gregory Haile, **Broward College**; Paul Metcalf, **Florida Atlantic University**; Colleen McCrory and Heather Miller, **Broward Health** Medical Center; Chiara Tacca-Hess, **Gallery One Double Tree Suites by Hilton**; Jeffrey Backman and Marla Neufeld, **Greenspoon Marder Law**; Lindsay Raphael, **Tripp Scott**; Peter Neirouz, **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**; Carlos Arboleda, **COI access**; Heather Geronemus, **Ultimate Software**; Larry Genet, **CBRE** and Raquel Case, **Rick Case Automotive Group**.

Join **United Way of Broward County** for an evening of entertainment and networking on Saturday, October 24 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. This event is a great opportunity for key influencers and charity supporters to come together with the common purpose of building a better community through United Way of Broward County. By partnering with MISSION UNITED, each city will also have the opportunity to nominate a military veteran to be honored in a "Celebration of Service" at the event. **Broward County** Mayor Tim Ryan will serve as the host of this year's event. To read more, please [click here](#).

[Back to top](#)

Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance Council Connect (Invitation Only)

Thursday, August 27, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Gulfstream Park, Hallandale Beach

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

Alliance 2015 Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 5:30 p.m.

Location: The Signature Grand, Davie

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

[Back to top](#)

Enterprise Florida Events

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

Baptist Health South Florida: Senior Safety Education

Wednesday, July 8, 8:15 a.m.

Location: Cooper City Pool & Tennis Center

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

Baptist Health South Florida: Decoding Food Labels

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Pembroke Falls, Pembroke Pines

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

Baptist Health South Florida: Caring for the Caregiver: Mind, Body and Soul

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Baptist Health Resource Center, Pembroke Pines

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

Baptist Health South Florida: My Optimal Wellness: Healthy Eating 101

Monday, July 20, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Weston YMCA Family Center

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

Business for the Arts Broward Cultural Tour

Friday, July 24, 9:00 a.m.

Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale

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

RedEye: Art Happening

Saturday, July 25, 6:00 p.m.

Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale

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

2015 National Urban League Conference: Education, Jobs & Justice

July 29 – August 1

Location: Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center, 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).

[Back to top](#)