



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

March 31, 2015

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

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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, JetBlue, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Patriot National, Inc., South Florida Business Journal, South Florida Business & Wealth and Silver sponsor: AutoNation. Interested in sponsoring? Broward's top business audience will recognize your support. Contact Gail Bulfin at [gbulfin@gflalliance.org](mailto:gbulfin@gflalliance.org), or 954-627-0127 for sponsorship opportunities. For more information, please [click here](#).

**REGISTER NOW for the Six Pillars Annual Report to the Community and Solutions Summit**

Please make plans and register now to attend the Six Pillars Annual Report to the Community and Solutions Summit on Thursday, April 30. This is going to be a premier event, showcasing how our community has come together to grow jobs, make our communities sustainable and successful, and prepare us to compete globally for the high paying jobs of the future. The event begins at 7:15 a.m. with a networking reception and continental breakfast, followed by the Annual Report to the Community and Solutions Summit. It will be held at the Omni Auditorium, Broward College North Campus, 1000 Coconut Creek Boulevard, Coconut Creek and the cost is \$35. To

register to attend, please [click here](#). Sponsorship opportunities are available. Please contact Ron Drew at [rdrew@gflalliance.org](mailto:rdrew@gflalliance.org) or at 954-627-0130 for more information.

### **Syntac Coated Products Creates 20 Jobs in Broward County**

Governor Rick Scott recently announced that Syntac Coated Products, LLC, a leader in custom-designed and manufactured pressure sensitive adhesive products for the healthcare, automotive, graphic arts and construction industries, will expand its offices and manufacturing operations in Deerfield Beach creating 20 jobs. Syntac Coated Products will invest \$3.7 million in the community as part of the expansion. Governor Scott said, "I am proud to announce Syntac Coated Products creation of 20 new jobs in Broward County. Syntac Coated Products looked at other states for their expansion, and their decision to expand their business in Florida is great news for our families. Over the past four years, Florida has created over 801,000 private sector jobs, and we will keep working until every person in Florida has the opportunity to live their dream." To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Income in Florida Up Versus U.S.**

Income in Florida is growing faster than the national average, according to a report released Wednesday by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Total income rose an estimated 4.6 percent in 2014 compared with 3.9 percent nationally. Ten states had higher growth, the bureau said. Alaska and Oregon led the states with a 5.7 percent jump in estimated total income. Florida's income growth is a sign the state has recovered from the recession, said economist William B. Stronge, a professor emeritus at Florida Atlantic University. This article, by Donna Gehrke-White, ran in the Sun Sentinel on March 26. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Florida's Economy Grows More Diverse**

Florida's economy is not just about the sun and beach anymore, economists say. While tourism and retiree-friendly industries will always be important, the state is much more diversified than before the recession, according to a new report from economists at Wells Fargo. Florida is seeing job growth in transportation and logistics, technology and life science sectors. "I'm more optimistic about Florida today than any time since the 1980s. We have a more promising stream of growing industries and businesses that have grown up in Florida. The strength we see today is far more durable," said Mark Vitner, senior economist for Wells Fargo. This article, from the Sun-Sentinel, is by Marcia Pounds. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Florida Has Added More Than 807,000 Private-Sector Jobs Since December 2010**

Governor Rick Scott recently announced that Florida businesses have created 807,100 private-sector jobs since December 2010. In February 2015, 14,900 private-sector jobs were created across Florida. Florida's annual private-sector job growth rate, now at 3.9 percent, has exceeded that of the nation since April 2012. Florida's unemployment rate for February 2015 was 5.6 percent, down from the January 2015 rate of 5.7 percent. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Broward County Launches 2015 Business Development Workshop Series**

This month, the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development (OESBD) launched the 2015 Business Development Workshop Series, the annual FREE program focused on developing, creating capacity and providing resources to small businesses. For 2015, OESBD will present a minimized four-part schedule of the most valuable topics throughout the history of the series affording a more targeted approach to providing business assistance, and allowing the agency to increase its participation in activities and events presented by community outreach partners, present new business development trainings for clients on various topics and provide training for County employees. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Award Application Deadlines Approaching: April 10**

The Alliance **Economic Development Partner of the Year** award will honor an organization that has demonstrated a major commitment to Economic Development in Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County. The award will be given each year at the Alliance Mid-Year Meeting and Luncheon. Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee and the honoree will be announced at the event. Self-nominations are allowed. To submit a nomination, please [click here](#).

The Alliance **World Class Faculty Award** is given each year at the Alliance Mid-Year Meeting and Luncheon. A profile of the winner is included in the program book and the winning faculty member is presented an award on stage at the event. Nominations are reviewed by the Alliance Education Action Team and the winner is notified prior to the event. To download the application, please [click here](#).

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



### **Six BCPS Magnet Schools Receive Magnet Schools of America 2015 National Merit Awards**

Congratulations to six Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) magnet schools for earning the Magnet Schools of America 2015 National Merit Awards. Receiving the Magnet Schools of Distinction Award are Fort Lauderdale High School, Cambridge Programme and Pre-Law & Public Affairs; McNicol Middle School, Science/Pre-Engineering; New River Middle School Marine Science; Stranahan High School, Medical Sciences; and Sunrise Middle School, Montessori. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **McArthur High School Principal Todd LaPace Recognized as Florida Association of Student Councils' Principal of the Year**

Congratulations to McArthur High School Principal Todd LaPace who was selected as the Florida Association of Student Councils' (FASC) Principal of the Year (2014-2015). FASC's 43rd Annual Convention was held at Jefferson High School in Tampa. Students nominate the candidates for this award and then a selection committee determines the winner on criteria including how the principal positively impacted student government, campus leadership and overall climate of co-curricular activities on campus. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **BCPS Teacher Named 2015 Global Enterprising Educator by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship for South Florida**

Congratulations to Nova Middle School entrepreneurship teacher, Michael Brennan, who is this year's recipient of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) 2015 Global Enterprising Educator for South Florida. Brennan was honored at NFTE's Global Showcase on March 25 at Gotham Hall in New York City for his successful implementation of the NFTE Program at Nova Middle School. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Innovative Classroom Projects Unveiled During Broward Education Foundation 2015 Teacher Ideas Expo at NSU**

Teachers from Sunrise, Pompano, Deerfield Beach, Miramar, Fort Lauderdale and every city in between in Broward County brought their most innovative classroom projects to Broward Education Foundation's 18th Annual Teacher Idea Expo sponsored by Bright Star Credit Union and held at Nova Southeastern University. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **Nova Blanche Forman Elementary School Partners With the University of Miami for STEM Pilot Program**

The University of Miami's School of Education & Human Development has teamed up with Nova Blanche Forman Elementary School to integrate robotics and coding into STEM learning. The pilot project, is a collaboration between University of Miami (UM) faculty members, teachers and students at Nova Blanche Forman for a 10-week pilot robotics class, for fifth graders. The program began January 29 and ends April 16, 2015. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **School Board Honors BCPS Sunshine State Scholars**

The School Board of Broward County, is honoring two high school students for representing Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) in the Sunshine State Scholars Program. During a special presentation at a recent School Board meeting, Munir Libos from Cypress Bay High School and Ivy Li from Flanagan High School were recognized for their academic achievements. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **FAU Fort Lauderdale and Broward College Install "This Is A Canvas" Street Art Exhibition**

This Is A Canvas, a street art exhibition created in partnership with Florida Atlantic University and Broward College, went up in March on the large, 90 foot wide blank exterior west wall of the FAU/Broward College Higher Education Complex located on SE First Avenue and Las Olas Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please [click here](#).

### **FAU Awarded \$4.3 Million for Elementary Teacher Preparation**

The State of Florida has awarded FAU's College of Education a \$4.3 million grant to establish a Center of Excellence for Elementary Teacher Preparation. FAU is one of four recipients to receive the grant, "Collaborative Transformation: Establishing Excellence in Elementary Preparation," which is an innovative partnership between FAU's College of Education, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science, Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, as well as Learning Sciences International and the New Teacher Center. To read more, please [click here](#).

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## **Business Briefs and Alliance Member News**



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Five deserving high school seniors enrolled in a Miami-Dade, Broward, Monroe or Palm Beach County public or private school will be selected to receive \$25,000 in total scholarship funds thanks to **BankUnited** and the Miami HEAT. Now in its 19th year, the Miami HEAT Scholarship Program will award five \$5,000 scholarships, thanks in part to a sponsorship from BankUnited. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Baptist Health South Florida** offers many complimentary fitness programs throughout the Broward community, including Zumba, Aerobics, Yoga, Boot Camp and Run Club. For a complete listing of programs, and to get involved, please visit: [www.BaptistHealth.net/Wellness](http://www.BaptistHealth.net/Wellness).

Congratulations to **BIG CHEF**, owned by Alliance board member Rosana Santos Calambichis. The company was recently named the official catering partner of the Fort Lauderdale Strikers soccer team.

In recognition of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, **Broward College**, in partnership with Free the Slaves and the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking, hosted a human trafficking conference. "Honoring Victims of Slavery Then & Fighting Slavery Now: Abolition of Child Domestic Servitude in Haiti" took place on Wednesday, March 25 at Broward College's Bailey Hall. To read more, please [click here](#).



**Broward Cultural Division**, The Community Partnership for Arts and Culture (CPAC) and ArtServe announce the return of the very successful Artist as an Entrepreneur Institute (AEI). The program, to be presented on four Saturdays in June, will be held at ArtServe, 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale. Artists of all disciplines are encouraged to attend, including but not limited to sculptors, illustrators, metalworkers, writers, dancers, jewelers, musicians, performance artists, media/filmmakers, photographers, designers and all interdisciplinary artists. Artists residing in any county are invited and welcome to attend. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Broward County's Port Everglades** expects to see a 65 percent increase in daily passengers as Spain-based ferry company Balearia Ferry Express replaces its 460-passenger vessel with the 1,000-passenger Bahama Mama, which began service to Grand Bahama Island this week. To read more, please [click here](#).

The Commercial Industrial Association of South Florida (CIASF) honored **CBRE** with three awards at its first-ever awards program, held at Douglas Entrance in Coral Gables on March 19, 2015. The non-profit trade group honored several of South Florida's top performers with awards. To read more, please [click here](#).

**CBRE** arranged the sale of a 10.35-acre development opportunity at the northwest corner of Sunrise Blvd. and US 441/SR 7 in Lauderhill, across from the newly developed Lauderhill Performing Arts Center & Library and the Central Broward Regional Park. The Amera 441 parcel was acquired for \$2.5 million from Eagle FL I SPE, LLC by Cricket Club Lauderhill, LLC, whose principals are Alan Benenson and Michael Sher. The purchaser has plans to redevelop the infill asset into a 160-unit townhome community. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Fort Lauderdale** has been named the winner of the Southeast Florida Smart Growth Partnership's (SGP) Overall Excellence Award for "Connecting the Blocks (CTB)," an initiative aimed at creating a more walkable, bikeable, fully connected, sustainable city. The Overall Excellence Award is the highest award presented by the SGP and recognizes outstanding, comprehensive, integrated, and impactful smart growth approaches across multiple levels, including neighborhoods, corridors, city, county, and regional levels. To read more, please [click here](#).

**City National Bank** of Florida (CNB) has named Alliance board member Sandra Mayor Senior Vice President and Relationship Manager in its Broward Corporate Banking Team. In this capacity, Mayor will help expand CNB's market share in the corporate and middle market segments and increase its engagement in Broward County.

**Florida Atlantic University** and two of the world's premier research institutions will create one-of-a-kind education programs that will attract the best and brightest students to Palm Beach County. FAU, and the globally acclaimed Max Planck Florida Institute and The Scripps Research Institute, will build on existing relationships to further scientific discovery and education through shared resources and facilities. This also will transform FAU's John D. MacArthur Campus in Jupiter into a hub of scientific inquiry, innovation and economic development. To read more, please [click here](#).

LaunchCode, an organization that creates pathways to economic opportunity and upward mobility through apprenticeships and job placement in technology, was recognized recently by President Obama as part of the White House TechHire initiative. LaunchCode was recently organized in South Florida. To read more, please [click here](#).

Everyware™, a new start-up company headquartered in San Francisco, announced recently that its Florida operation is relocating to the Technology Business Incubator at the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University**. To read more, please [click here](#). Green Lumens® LLC also recently announced the relocation of its corporate headquarters and research and development facility to the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University. To read more, please [click here](#).

For the third consecutive year, the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** reported unprecedented year-to-year growth. Recently released, its Report to the Community documents significant expansion in all sectors, reflecting the Research Park's success in creating a productive environment for high-tech, high-growth companies where they benefit from the synergy of being near to other technology businesses, while utilizing the assets and collaborations with **Florida Atlantic University**. To read more, please [click here](#).

Hernandez Construction, an affiliate of full-service commercial real estate firm, **Stiles**, has broken ground on the first two buildings slated for Flagler Global Logistics' highly anticipated Flagler Station Phase III development. Buildings 1 and 2, totaling 235,000 square feet of industrial space, mark the official start of vertical construction on the 1.7 million square-foot Phase III expansion of Flagler Station, South Florida's largest business park. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Stiles** announced recently that One Plantation Apartments as well as the Shops at One Plantation were recently awarded Project of the Year during NAIOP South Florida's Awards of Excellence. Both projects were developed by Stiles, a full-service real estate provider based in Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please [click here](#).

**Taylor & Mathis** has signed two firms to leases at Sawgrass Corporate Park. Both companies are opening new offices in Sunrise. Donna Korn and Jennifer Gemma of Taylor & Mathis negotiated the leases on behalf of the buildings' owners, The Brookdale Group and UBS Realty Investors LLC. To read more, please [click here](#).

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## Featured Property of the Month



Sawgrass Corporate Centre II  
1571 Sawgrass Corporate Parkway  
Sunrise, FL 33323  
*Listed by Taylor & Mathis*  
Additional details at [GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com](http://GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com)  
[Click Here](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Alliance Events

#### **Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Members Only)**

Thursday, April 9, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Location: City of Fort Lauderdale CRA

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

#### **Alliance Entrepreneurship Council Meeting (Members Only)**

Friday, April 10, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton

For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 or at [lbongiovi@gfalliance.org](mailto:lbongiovi@gfalliance.org)

#### **Alliance International Action Team Lunch/Workshop (Members Only)**

Thursday, April 23, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 or at [lbongiovi@gfalliance.org](mailto:lbongiovi@gfalliance.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@gfalliance.org](mailto:gbulfin@gfalliance.org) or Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at [vinaixa@gfalliance.org](mailto: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**

#### **Tower Forum: Florida Sports**

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, Fort Lauderdale

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

#### **Florida Chamber of Commerce International Days**

April 7-9

Location: Florida State University Conference Center, Tallahassee

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

#### **FRLA Broward 6th Annual Excellence in Education Gala**

Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Diplomat Resort & Spa

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

#### **South Florida Business Journal Critical Conversations: Crowdfunding**

Friday, April 10, 9:00 a.m.

Location: SFBJ Offices, Fort Lauderdale

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

#### **Broward College-Wide Open House**

Thursday, April 16, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Broward College Campuses

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

#### **Broward Workshop State of Our County Forum**

Friday, April 17, 7:15 a.m.

Location: Signature Grand, Davie

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

#### **Dolphins Family FitFest Presented by Baptist Health South Florida**

Saturday, April 18, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Doctors Hospital Training Facility at NSU, Davie

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

#### **Center for Hemispheric Policy: Argentina's 2015 Economic Outlook**

Tuesday, April 21, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Westin Colonnade Coral Gables

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

#### **Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale Tribute Honoring Kelley Shanley**

Thursday, April 23, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please [click here](#).

**2015 Office of Economic and Small Business Development Workshop Series: Building a Stellar Team - Prime Selection Process and Sub Success Stories**

Saturday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Location: West Regional Library, Plantation

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

**Center for Hemispheric Policy: Tenth Annual Latin America Conference**

Tuesday, April 28, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Conrad Miami

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

**South Florida Business and Wealth Leaders in Law**

Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Gallery of Amazing Things, Dania Beach

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

**Six Pillars Solutions Summit and Annual Report to the Community**

Thursday, April 30, 7:15 a.m.

Location: Omni Auditorium, Broward College North Campus

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

**2015 South Florida Business Journal Business of the Year Awards**

Thursday, April 30, 5:30 p.m.

Location: IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame Museum, Dania Beach

For more information, please [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](#).

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit [www.gfalliance.org](http://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](http://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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