May 31, 2016

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

Top Stories:

- Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Features $126,000 Investment by JPMorgan Chase & Co., Announcement of Ecolab Latin America Regional Headquarters, Keynote by Florida CFO Jeff Atwater
- Broward County Continues to See High Wage Year over Year Job Growth
- Miami Maintenance Management Council Changes Name to South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council, Announces its Merger with Miramar Aviation Consortium, Expands Scope
- Florida Ranked Second Best State in Nation for Business by Chief Executive Magazine

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Top Stories

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Features $126,000 Investment by JPMorgan Chase & Co., Announcement of Ecolab Latin America Regional Headquarters, Keynote by Florida CFO Jeff Atwater

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance hosted its Mid-Year Luncheon, presented by FPL, on Thursday, May 19, 2016 to an audience of nearly 600 members and guests at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale.

At the event, JPMorgan Chase & Co announced it is investing $126,000 with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Foundation to develop a local market analysis and report assessing the skills gap in Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County. The new report will be developed with CareerSource Broward and other partners, and will evaluate both worker skills and employer needs to develop a framework that can help accelerate training and fill high-demand jobs to meet the needs of employers. For additional details, please see the announcement release.

Also announced at the luncheon and earlier that day by Governor Rick Scott was the establishment of a new Latin America regional headquarters by Ecolab, a Fortune 100 company. The company will be bringing 50 new jobs to Miramar, with a capital investment of more than $800,000. Ecolab is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services with 47,000 employees serving customers at more than 1 million locations in more than 170 countries.

Alliance President/CEO Bob Swindell and Chair Penny Shaffer, Market President of Florida Blue, reported the following results of the Alliance’s ongoing work as the official public/private partnership for economic development in Broward County: nearly $200 Million in capital investment by Alliance-assisted companies in the first two quarters of the Alliance fiscal year; 1,630 new jobs and 838 retained jobs.
“Our new job announcements, low current unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, and year-over-year nonagricultural job growth of 27,300 (3.3 percent) are confirmation that our economy is one of the strongest in the state and nation,” said Bob Swindell, President and CEO of the Alliance. “The businesses that chose to locate or expand in Broward County are a testament to our marketing and branding of Greater Fort Lauderdale as a location for companies providing high-wage, high value jobs. It also affirms the success of our collaboration as a community in developing and providing a talented workforce and creating a favorable business climate.”

The luncheon’s keynote speaker was State of Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater. He gave an update on the current state of Florida’s economy and changes over recent years in regard to competitiveness with other states.

The Alliance also presented its annual World Class Faculty and Economic Development Partner of the Year Awards:

The 2016 Economic Development Partner of the Year is Broward College. In addition to longtime membership and involvement in the Alliance, Broward College works to create opportunities for economic growth through initiatives including its Innovation Hub incubator, an internship toolkit for local companies, and its workforce development team, which works closely with the business community to provide a pipeline of workforce-ready graduates.

The 2016 World Class Faculty honoree is Dr. Nancy Klimas, professor and chair of the Department of Clinical Immunology in Nova Southeastern University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. Klimas has achieved international recognition for her research and clinical efforts in multi-symptom disorders, chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis, Gulf War illness, Parkinson’s disease, and fibromyalgia.

Additionally, the results of the Alliance’s fifth annual Executive Survey were announced. The survey, conducted by Kaufman Rossin polls area executives on their perception of the business climate in Broward County and their plans for the next twelve months in terms of hiring and other investments. The entire report is available at http://group.kaufmanrossin.com/survey-results-2016-broward-executive.

Please click here to view photos of the event on our Facebook page.

The Alliance’s Annual Meeting and dinner will take place October 20, 2016 at the Signature Grand.

A special thank you to our sponsors!
Broward County Continues to See High Wage Year over Year Job Growth
(Fort Lauderdale, FL – May 31, 2016) - Broward County’s job report indicated a 4.2 percent unemployment rate in April 2016. This is a decrease of .7 percentage points from the year ago rate of 4.9 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 32,100 jobs (+4.0 percent) over the year, with an employment of 825,900 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region’s jobless rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate (4.5 percent). Out of a labor force of 999,817, there were 42,204 unemployed Broward County residents. “We’re very pleased to continue to see strong year over year job growth in the high wage job sectors in Broward County,” said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. “This is an indication that our work to diversify the economy continues to yield great results.” To read more, please click here.

Miami Maintenance Management Council Changes Name to South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council, Announces its Merger with Miramar Aviation Consortium, Expands Scope
The Miami Maintenance Management Council (MMMC) announced recently it has changed its name to the South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council (SFAMC), and that the Miramar Aviation Consortium will merge with the group.

“Our name change and merger with the Miramar Aviation Consortium exemplifies the growth of the organization as well as the aviation industry in the region. In South Florida, numerous large and small aviation maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) companies, as well as auxiliary and support companies are based in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties,” said Kim L. Merced, President of the South Florida Aviation Maintenance Council. To read more, please click here.

Florida Ranked Second Best State in Nation for Business by Chief Executive Magazine
The State of Florida retained its ranking as second best state in the nation in which to do business by Chief Executive magazine for 2016. For more information, please click here.

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

Broward College and Diversified Companies Announce Groundbreaking for New Aviation Facility
Broward College Announces Launch of Business Accelerator
Two Broward College Graduates Earn Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships
Broward College Recognized by Governor Rick Scott with Leadership Award at Jobs Summit
Broward College Named Economic Development Partner of the Year by the Alliance
Broward College’s Marielena DeSanctis Named 2016 Hispanic Woman of Distinction
FAU Alumni Association Recognizes Hall of Fame Inductee and Distinguished Alumni
FAU Celebrates Spring Commencement
Bobby and Barbara Campbell Donate $5 Million for Complex (FAU)
NSU Professor Receives World Class Faculty Award for Global Contributions to Science and Medicine
HCA East Florida Received State Approval for a New Hospital to be Built on the Campus of Nova Southeastern University
Broward League of Cities Awarded Scholarships to Local High School Students
BCPS National Merit $2,500 Scholarship Winners Named
BCPS Sunshine State Scholars Honored by the Florida Department of Education
Marjorie Stoneman Douglas HS JROTC Cadet for Being Named the 2015/16 Broward County Cadet of the Year
New River Middle School Teacher Participates in Groundbreaking STEM Initiative Aboard the Exploration Vessel Nautilus
Evening Among the Stars Honors Students for Outstanding Attendance
Annual Status Report on the Implementation of the Second Amended Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning
Third Grade FSA Results for English Language Arts Released By State

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

Alliance Member Companies in Bold

Advanced Roofing, Inc., Florida’s largest commercial re-roofing contractor and solar contractor, has acquired Pompano Beach-based Roof System Services (RSS), a leading company in South Florida’s roofing industry since its founding in 1995. To read more, please click here.

Breakthru Beverage Florida, one of the largest distributors of wines, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages in the state, Tuesday celebrated its $65 million contribution to Step Up For Students at its Florida headquarters in Ft. Lauderdale. Breakthru’s donation will provide K-12 scholarships to more than 11,100 low-income Florida schoolchildren for the 2015-16 school year. This is the fifth year
Breakthru Beverage Florida has contributed to the nonprofit organization that administers the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. The program is funded by corporations that receive dollar-for-dollar tax credits for their contributions. To read more, please click here.

Broward College and the Walt Disney World Company, through its world-renowned Disney Institute, have partnered to bring quality customer service training to South Florida. During this one-day event on September 22, 2016, you’ll learn customer service strategies and practical approaches to ensure greater intent to return and recommend, as well as develop a stronger competitive edge. To read more, please click here.

GrayRobinson announced business attorney Gary M. Berkson joins the Orlando office as a shareholder. Berkson focuses his practice on representing business clients ranging in size from large, national corporations to start up and emerging business ventures that are engaged in diverse business activities. To read more, please click here.

The Parallel Home Collection, located in the Colee Hammock neighborhood of Downtown Fort Lauderdale, is proud to announce that as its first phase, Parallel 1 has sold out and nears completion and its second phase, Parallel 2 has broken ground, the community has debuted a fully furnished model residence with finishes by Marc-Michaels Interiors. Developer Alan S. Macken of Macken Companies has worked with the esteemed design firm on several other of its developments throughout South Florida, including projects throughout Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. To read more, please click here.

President Ken Morris, SIOR, of Morris Southeast Group announced three recently completed lease transactions that he managed in South Florida: Santos Rehabilitation Content Bacon, and Brough, Chadrow & Levine, PA. To read more, please click here.

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment (SEA) and world-renowned marine artist and conservationist Guy Harvey announced a new partnership focused on ocean health and the plight of sharks in the wild. The two organizations will partner to raise awareness of these important issues, and collaborate on science and research to increase understanding of how to better protect these critical predators and their habitats. Research indicates upwards of 100 million sharks are killed every year in the global shark fishery. The Guy Harvey Research Institute estimates 73 million per year for the fin trade alone. Tagged sharks will be followed by students and researchers at Guy Harvey’s Institute at Nova Southeastern University, and can be viewed by the public online at www.GHRItracking.org. To read more, please click here.

The law firm of Panza, Maurer & Maynard P.A. has expanded its home offices, leasing almost 12,000-square feet at The Coastal Towers, 2400 E. Commercial Boulevard. One of the most successful litigation, government regulatory and administrative law firms in Florida, Panza Maurer has also opened a new 5,000-square-foot office in Coral Gables in the Alhambra Building, Two Alhambra Plaza. To read more, please click here.

Turquoise Takeover is a national campaign of the American Lung Association to facilitate awareness of the devastating impact of lung cancer on women. Alliance member Susan Horovitz Maurer of Panza, Maurer & Maynard P.A. is Chair of the South Florida campaign. Illuminations of landmarks were undertaken throughout south Florida to raise awareness and encourage earlier diagnosis and treatment. Alliance Member company participation included the landmarks of the Zimmerman Advertising building on I-95 (Pictured here), the Stiles building in downtown Fort Lauderdale and the Nova Southeastern University Shark Fountain.

As Riviera Point Development Group expands its commercial real estate development portfolio, the South Florida company has added veteran international executives Javier Manrique, vice president–business development and Jesús Thielen, marketing manager, to its management team. To read more, please click here.

Transwestern’s South Florida office, evening of May 11, it held its “Wish Upon a Star” event, a fundraiser and cocktail reception launching its year-long partnership with Make-A-Wish®, as well as Make-A-Wish Month in Southern Florida. Held at 110 Tower, located at 110 SE Sixth St. in downtown Fort Lauderdale, the event raised $33,000 in a single evening, bringing Transwestern’s South Florida office more than halfway to reaching its $50,000 fundraising goal. The tower is lit blue (the signature color of Transwestern and Make-A-Wish) each evening through May 31 to celebrate Make-A-Wish Month and this national partnership. To read more, please click here.

The Daily Business Review recognized Tripp Scott’s Sen. James A. Scott and 13 other legal industry veterans in its second annual Professional Excellence Awards. The attorneys and judges were selected for outstanding service to the Florida legal community. They were recognized at a May 19 event along with Rising Stars in the South Florida legal community at the Coral Gables Country Club. To read more, please click here.
Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Entrepreneurship Council Meeting (Invitation Only)
Wednesday, June 8, 8:30 a.m.
Location: BBX Capital, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)
Thursday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.
Location: SBDC Fort Lauderdale/Broward College, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)
Wednesday, June 15, 8:30 a.m.
Location: GUNSTER, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131 hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 8:30 a.m.
Location: NSU Oceanographic Institute
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Alliance Governor Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Butterfly World, Coconut Creek
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or at tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

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Enterprise Florida Events

Discover Global Markets: The Americas
June 15-16, 2016
Location: The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort
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

**SBJ - Healthiest Employers Awards and Expo**
Thursday, June 2, 10:30 a.m.
Location: Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

**MIAF - 2016 Annual Dinner**
Saturday, June 4, 7:00 p.m.
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

**Business for the Arts Broward - Artist Encounter**
Sunday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.
Location: IKEA, Sunrise
For more information, click here.

**Financially and Physically Fit**
Thursday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.
Location: DeliverLean, Oakland Park
For more information, click here.

**Marsh & McLennan Agency- Hurricane & Disaster Preparedness Seminar**
Thursday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Nova Southeastern University, Davie
For more information, click here.

**SBJ - Biz Edge Professional Series: Sales Crash Course**
Wednesday, June 15, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Ritz Carlton Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

**3rd Annual Marine Industry Day**
Saturday, June 18
For more information, click here.

**FAU | Broward Networking Breakfast - Topic: Hotel Investments & 2016 Tax Assessments**
Tuesday, June 21, 8:00 a.m.
Location: FAU Davie
For more information, click here.

**Jim Moran 6th Annual Institute Business & Leadership Conference**
Wednesday, June 22
Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center
For more information, click here.

**Business for the Arts Broward - 2016 Cultural Tours**
Friday, July 8, 8:30 a.m.
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, 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](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)
Also join our [LinkedIn group](https://www.linkedin.com) (for members only).

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