



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

October 30, 2015

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

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- Alliance Announces New Jobs, Initiatives; Presents Awards and Installs Penny Shaffer as Board Chair at Annual Meeting
- Uniform Advantage Expands, Relocates and Renames Downtown Fort Lauderdale's Tower 101
- Broward County Unemployment Rate Drops to Under 5 percent
- Cheers welcome Magic Leap to new headquarters in Plantation
- Sitel Celebrates Pompano Beach Customer Experience Center Grand Opening with up to 1000 Jobs

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Top Stories

[Alliance Announces New Jobs, Initiatives; Presents Awards and Installs Penny Shaffer as Board Chair at Annual Meeting](#)

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County's official public/private partnership for economic development, reported at its 2015 annual meeting on Thursday, October 22 that it helped attract 24 new company relocations and expansions during its 2014-15 fiscal year that ended September 30. This resulted in more than 1,432 new value added jobs, more than 1,313 retained jobs and more than \$116 million in new capital investment. Some of the companies that relocated or expanded in Broward County included: Chiquita Brands International, SATO Global Solutions, Hoerbiger, Charter Schools USA, JKG Group, Inc., SeaLand, Syntac Coated Products, OSM Aviation, Inc., Playwire Media, GA Telesis, Sitel and 1st Choice Aerospace. All of the companies announced were among a group of more than 350 companies that were provided services by the Alliance during its 2014-15 fiscal year.

The Alliance reported that over the last nine years, the Alliance and its partners have helped generate \$1.8 billion in annual personal income and \$9.8 billion in annual economic impact.

During the meeting, Mike Moore, Managing Director of COI access, who had served the past year as Chair of the Board of the Alliance, turned the gavel over to Penny Shaffer, Market President of Florida Blue, who will be the Alliance's 2015-16 Chair.

In a joint announcement with Shaffer, Alliance CEO Council Chair Ray Ferrero, Jr. stated that the Council had engaged a nationally renowned economic development consulting firm, Boyette Strategic Advisors (BSA), to assist in developing a new five-year marketing plan for the Alliance. The Alliance will be expanding its award winning national "Life Less Taxing" headquarters marketing campaign through an initiative called Target 2020, to include other local growing industries including aviation and aerospace, information and communications technologies, life sciences, global logistics and marine industries. In addition, the Alliance and its CEO Council will be working to develop an enhanced entrepreneurial ecosystem in Greater Fort Lauderdale, making Broward County even more desirable to fast growing entrepreneurial companies.

The Alliance also announced that Keith Koenig, President of City Furniture, was the recipient of the Alliance's 2016 Ray Ferrero Jr. Economic Development Leadership Award.

The Alliance also presented its annual economic development leadership awards (VIDEO) to six other individuals who have gone above and beyond in their work in the community helping to grow jobs and strengthen the economy. Those honored, with the Alliance Council who presented the awards in parenthesis, were: Juliet Roulhac, FPL (CEO Council); Melanie Dickinson, South Florida Business Journal (Governor Council); Jim Demos, Bank of America Merrill Lynch (Leadership Council); Glenn Cooper, GrayRobinson, PA (Corporate Council); Kellen Smith, MSi Consulting (Entrepreneurship Council); and Dan Murphy, City of Dania Beach (Partner Council). To view the award video, [click here](#).

The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association was awarded the Alliance's Educational Excellence Builds Business Partnership Award. To view the award video, [click here](#).

Recognizing the importance of millennials and young professionals to the economic vitality of our community, the Alliance announced the formation of a Six Pillars/Alliance emerging leader advisory board and debuted a video showcasing the many reasons the newest generation of leaders love Greater Fort Lauderdale. The video can be [viewed here](#).

The annual meeting, with more than 650 in attendance, was held at the Signature Grand in Davie. Peter Kageyama, author of For the Love of Cities and Love Where You Live, discussed ways citizens can work together to inspire change and enhance the quality of life in their communities.

The event was sponsored by Platinum Sponsors: Broward College, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Patriot National, Inc., Signature Grand, South Florida Business Journal and South Florida Business & Wealth; Gold Sponsors: Comcast Business, JetBlue and Zimmerman; Silver Sponsors: AutoNation, All Aboard Florida, FPL, FPL FiberNet, Galleria Fort Lauderdale - a JLL Property, Gunster and Starmark International.



Uniform Advantage Expands, Relocates and Renames Downtown Fort Lauderdale's Tower 101

Uniform Advantage, a vertically integrated, multi-channel retailer of uniforms to the healthcare and hospitality industries, recently announced it is relocating its corporate headquarters to downtown Fort Lauderdale. After an extensive search led by Cresa South Florida, Uniform Advantage (UA) has elected to relocate its offices from their current location in Plantation to take 52,683 square feet in the Tower 101 Building, located at 101 Northeast Third Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The company will occupy the top two floors, plus partial space on two additional floors. As the largest tenant in the Tower, UA has secured building signage rights and is excited for the opportunity to increase the company's profile and add to an already impressive Fort Lauderdale skyline. The building will be called the Uniform Advantage building. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County Unemployment Rate Drops to Under 5 percent

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.9 percent unemployment rate in September 2015. This is a decrease of .9 percentage points from the year ago rate of 5.8 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 22,800 jobs (2.9 percent) over the year, with an employment of 799,600 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than the state rate (5.3 percent). Out of a labor force of 1,000,765 there were 49,004 unemployed Broward County residents. This compares to 57,903 unemployed a year ago. To read more, please [click here](#).

Cheers welcome Magic Leap to new headquarters in Plantation

Entertainment-technology developer Magic Leap showed off its new headquarters recently — even if leaders wouldn't talk about what they'll create there. The company is renovating a 260,000-square-foot space at 8000 W. Sunrise Blvd. in Plantation, formerly home to Motorola Mobility. "This is proof you can dream wildly and make things happen," said Magic Leap founder Rony Abovitz, a bit sweaty in a gray T-shirt in 87-degree heat, but grinning widely at the crowd. He was cheered by enthusiastic employees, who have come from around South Florida, the nation and even internationally to work at the innovative company. This story, by Marcia Pounds, ran in the Sun Sentinel on October 13. To read more, please [click here](#).

Sitel Celebrates Pompano Beach Customer Experience Center Grand Opening with up to 1000 Jobs

Sitel, a leading global customer care provider, recently announced the grand opening of its Pompano Beach customer experience center and the availability of 1000 full-time positions. Sitel has already hired and trained 500 staff for the new center and is actively interviewing to fill 500 additional positions to provide outstanding customer experiences for a leading financial services provider. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



[Broward College Receives \\$2.2M Grant from U.S. Department of Education](#)

[NSU's Shepard Broad College of Law to Dedicate Panza Maurer Law Library](#)

[Broward College Hosts First 24-Hour Student Hackathon](#)

[Atlantic Technical High School Makes Newsweek's "Beating the Odds" List for 2015](#)

[Broward College to Award \\$200,000 for MLK Day of Service](#)

[Florida Department of Education Releases Preliminary Florida Standards Assessments Results](#)

[Royal Palm Elementary STEM Museum Magnet School to Host Taiwan Educator Delegation](#)

[Driftwood Middle School Recognized as a National Healthy School by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation](#)

[Broward County Public Schools to Host Annual "Conversation With The District" Event Series](#)

[Driftwood Middle School Physical Education Teacher Named Florida Teacher of the Year by Society of Health and Physical Educators](#)

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Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

AutoNation, America's largest automotive retailer, recently reported third quarter 2015 net income from continuing operations of \$119 million, or \$1.05 per share, compared to net income from continuing operations of \$107 million, or \$0.90 per share, for the same period in the prior year, a 17% improvement on a per-share basis. To read more, please [click here](#).

Internationally renowned artist Dale Chihuly has created a beautiful wall scone installation for **Broward County's Port Everglades** as part of the Florida port's continuous investments in creating the ultimate cruise guest experience. To read more, please [click here](#).

Vigilant Biosciences recently opened a new headquarters in **Fort Lauderdale** and is getting ready to launch its early-detection product for oral cancer risk called OncAlert. Kim hopes the two-product system eventually will be used routinely by dentists, primary care doctors and physician assistants. To read more, please [click here](#).

Now in its 24th year, **JM Family Enterprises** and its subsidiaries Southeast Toyota Distributors and JM Lexus will once again donate a total of \$40,000 to local nonprofits to celebrate the 2016 African-American Achievers. For each adult Achiever, \$10,000 will be awarded to the charity or charities of his / her choice. Additionally, the person(s) who nominated the selected Achiever in each category will have a total of \$500 donated to a charity or charities of his / her choice. Since the creation of the awards ceremony, JM Family Enterprises has donated more than \$400,000 to local organizations in recognition of the contributions of 142 Achievers. To read more, please [click here](#).

JP Morgan Chase recently awarded MetroBroward a \$15,000 grant. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach** Invites You to Book Your Holiday Party Today. For details, [click here](#) or contact Arthur Sands at asands@sonesta.com or 954.302.5205

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the **Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** honored three individuals and a non-profit who have made significant contributions toward the economic development of South Florida in 2015. The ceremony was held aboard the yacht, Biscayne Lady, on Oct. 2, 2015.

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. Labor & Employment Shareholder Jennifer Saltz Bullock was named among the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 40 Under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of South Florida 2015. To read more, please [click here](#).

Shops at Southline retail center was named "top real estate deal" at the Charlotte Business Journal Heavy Hitters in Real Estate Awards ceremony on Wednesday, October 21. The program recognizes excellence in commercial real estate transactions and development across the region. Shops at Southline was completed in April 2015 by **Stiles**, a full-service real estate developer with offices throughout Florida and in Charlotte, NC. To read more, please [click here](#).

Fort Lauderdale based commercial real estate firm **Stiles** and Nashville, TN-based Hensler Development Group announced that the nearly sold-out Twelve|Twelve condominium in Nashville, TN has won a 2015 National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Multifamily Pillars of the Industry Award for Best Condominium Community. To read more, please [click here](#).

Tripp Scott recently highlighted **SATO Global Solutions** in a video by **Dan Perez Films** titled, Fort Lauderdale New Home for Global Tech Company. Mike Beedles, president SATO Global Solutions Inc, a large Tokyo-based tech company discusses the company's choice of Fort Lauderdale for its software division with Ed Pozzuoli, president of the law firm Tripp Scott. To view the video, please [click here](#).

Former Alliance staff member, Peter Tokar, was named IEDC Young Economic Development Professional of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding achievements by young, emerging leaders in the economic development profession. To read more, please [click here](#).

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Featured Property of the Month



Miramar Park of Commerce
3600 Enterprise Way, Miramar, FL, 33025
Listed by Colliers International
Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com
[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Alliance Events

Alliance Entrepreneurship Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 8:30 a.m.

Location: General Provision, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 lbongiovi@gfalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, Nov. 12, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Port Everglades Administration Building

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBA

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

Post-Boat Show Breakfast at the Tower Club

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Joint Governor & Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Margaritaville Hollywood Beach Resort

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

Alliance Holiday Council Connect

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Riverside Hotel, Fort Lauderdale

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

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Enterprise Florida Events

Commercial Opportunities Between Colombia and the United States

Nov. 3

Location: Port Everglades

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

Export Sales Mission to Honduras

Dec. 1-3

Location: Tegucigalpa, Honduras

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

10th Annual FAU "Keep Memories Alive" Walk-In-The-Mall

Sunday, Nov. 1, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Town Center Boca Raton

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

Onboarding, Mentoring, and Succession Planning

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

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

MAF 12th Annual Manufacturers Summit & Marketplace

Nov. 4-5

Location: West Palm Beach Marriott

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

Marine Industry Job Fair

Thursday, Nov. 5, 1:00 p.m.

Location: Broward County Convention Center

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

2015 SFTA Golf Classic

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

Location: Jacaranda Golf Club, Plantation

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

Business for the Arts Broward Cultural Tour

Friday, Nov. 6, 9:00 a.m.

Location: ArtServe

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

Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Plan 2040

Friday, Nov. 6, 12:25 p.m.

Location: Tri-Rail Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport Station at Dania Beach

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

The Millennials: Tapping the Organization's Next Champions

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

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

BIOFLORIDA - Marine Biotechnology - The Human Connection

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m.

Location: NSU Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography, Dania Beach

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

Broward County Public Schools Debate Initiative

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts

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

Venezuela's Future: Is Collapse the Only Alternative?

Thursday, Nov. 12, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Coral Gables

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

SR 7 Multimodal Improvements Corridor Study e-TownHall Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Online

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

Perspectives on Florida's Healthcare and Excellence in Healthcare Awards Luncheon

Friday, Nov. 13, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Signature Grand, Davie

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

Village Square "Take-Out Tuesday" -The Minimum Wage Debate

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

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

South Florida Symphony: And the Tony Goes To...

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts

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

Arts Mean Business Speaker Series

Thursday, Nov. 19, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Forre' & Co. Fine Art Gallery, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFBJ 2015 Real Estate Market Review

Thursday, Nov. 19, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Hyde Midtown, Miami

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

Broward College Speaker Series - Carli Lloyd

Monday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

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

Communication Tools for Articulating Organizational Performance and Destiny

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College, Fort Lauderdale

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

7th Annual SE FL Climate Change Summit

Dec. 1-3

Location: Casa Marina, Key West

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

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.gflalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Connect and follow the Alliance on Social Media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

Also join our [LinkedIn group](#) (for members only).

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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