



Photo by Keith Douglas - kd@keithdouglas.com

September 30, 2016

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

Top Stories:

- Florida's Private-Sector Job Growth Rate Remains Highest Among All Large States in July
- Broward adds 34,800 Jobs Over the Year
- Hotwire Communications Announces Headquarters Relocation From Pennsylvania to Florida
- Nova Southeastern University Opens Center for Collaborative Research
- Gov. Scott Attends Ribbon Cutting of JetSmarter Office in Fort Lauderdale
- OIC of South Florida/The Middle Class Summit: Building, Elevating and Sustaining the Middle Class Oct 17-18
- 2016 Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo (FITCE) - October 19-20
- Register for the October 20 Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting by October 11.

Top Stories

[Florida's Private-Sector Job Growth Rate Remains Highest Among All Large States in July](#)

Governor Rick Scott recently announced that Florida businesses had the fastest annual private-sector job growth rate of the 10 most populous states in July. For the 52nd consecutive month, Florida's annual job growth rate of 3.3 percent is exceeding the nation's rate of 1.9 percent. Governor Scott also announced that July home prices were higher across the state than a year ago. To read more, please [click here](#).

[Broward adds 34,800 Jobs Over the Year](#)

Broward County's job report indicated a 4.6 percent unemployment rate in August 2016, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points from the year ago rate of 5.2 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 34,800 jobs (+4.4 percent) over the year, with an employment of 830,000 in the Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate (4.9 percent). Out of a labor force of 1,015,425, there were 46,207 unemployed Broward County residents. To read more, please [click here](#).

[Hotwire Communications Announces Headquarters Relocation From Pennsylvania to Florida](#)



Recently, Governor Rick Scott announced that Hotwire Communications, one of the nation's leading fiber optics telecommunications providers, will open its new headquarters -the Hotwire Technology Center- in Ft. Lauderdale. The headquarters is a relocation from Pennsylvania to Florida and will create 375 new jobs for families in Ft. Lauderdale. The company will also invest more than \$27 million in the local community. Hotwire Communications currently employs 300 Floridians. To read more, [click here](#).

[Nova Southeastern University Opens New Center for Collaborative Research](#)

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) officially opened its Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), one of the largest and most advanced research facilities in Florida. As part of the ceremony held September 21, NSU announced a gift from AutoNation to name NSU's AutoNation Institute for Breast and Solid Tumor Cancer Research, located within the CCR. The Institute is focused on developing and advancing improved methods of prevention and treatment to ultimately eradicate cancer. The gift to name NSU's AutoNation Institute brings the company's cumulative giving to NSU to more than \$10 million. To read more, [click here](#).

[Gov. Scott Attends Ribbon Cutting of JetSmarter Office in Fort Lauderdale](#)

Governor Rick Scott attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for JetSmarter's new office in Ft. Lauderdale and highlighted their recent job creation on September 23. Governor Scott announced their expansion



during a trade mission to the Farnborough International Air Show in London earlier this summer. Over the last 18 months, JetSmarter has added over 100 jobs in the South Florida area. To read more, [click here](#).

[OIC of South Florida/The Middle Class Summit: Building, Elevating and Sustaining the Middle Class Oct 17-18](#)

The Alliance is pleased to support OIC of South Florida's first ever Middle Class Summit. The Stanford University Center for Education Policy Analysis report "The Continuing Increase in Income Segregation, 2007-2012" released March 2016 states that "Florida metropolitan areas saw more economic segregation than those in any other state during and after the Great Recession." In view of these factors, OIC of South Florida will convene a 2016 Summit of key ecosystem stakeholders to dialogue strategies and solutions focused on Florida's highly vulnerable middle class. Together, we will identify how to elevate the middle class by reducing barriers to success while equipping and empowering those below to realize economic self-sufficiency. To read more, [click here](#).

[2016 Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo \(FITCE\) - October 19-20](#)

Join the Alliance and other partners for FITCE. Broward County will welcome over 150 international businesses, 350 local businesses, multi-cultural global trade representatives from over 30 countries and government leaders from around the globe to the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center for the 2016 Florida International Trade and Cultural Export. To read more, [click here](#)

[Register for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Annual Meeting](#)

Register for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's Annual Meeting, set for Thursday, October 20 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Signature Grand in Davie, with keynote speaker Patrick "Pat" Geraghty, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GuideWell Mutual Holding Corporation, a \$12 billion, not-for-profit health solutions organization headquartered in Jacksonville. Current sponsors include Platinum sponsors: Broward College, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Signature Grand, South Florida Business Journal and South Florida Business and Wealth; Gold Sponsor: AutoNation; Silver Sponsors: Becker & Poliakoff, City of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, Comcast Business, FPL, FPL FiberNet, Greenspoon Marder, GUNSTER, Memorial Healthcare System and Morris Commercial Real Estate + Solutions. For more information, contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gflalliance.org or visit www.gflalliance.org/annual.

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



[Broward College Named by Aspen Institute as one of the "Top Ten" Community Colleges in the Nation](#)

[Broward County Public Schools \(BCPS\) Spotlighted by the White House for Commitment to Computer Science for All Students](#)

[Broward College Receives \\$2 Million in U.S. Department of Education and National Science Foundation Grants](#)

[Broward College Ranks Sixth Nationally in Conferring Associate Degrees](#)

[2016 Broward Reads for the Record](#)

[Superintendent Robert W. Runcie Participates in White House Discussion on Computer Science in Schools](#)

[Broward College Partners with Greater Caribbean American Chamber and Lauderdale Lakes for Launch of Seaport Training Project](#)

[Nova Southeastern University to Host Mobile Fort Lauderdale Veterans Center](#)

[Susie and Alan B. Levan Create Endowed Scholarship for NSU's Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#)

[FAU Hires New Vice President for Advancement](#)

[Nova Southeastern University Receives Approval to Offer General Engineering Degree Program](#)

[Sheridan Technical College and General Motors Partner to Train Highly Skilled Automotive Technicians](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Brightline "topped out" its Fort Lauderdale train station, signaling the completion of the station structure and a shift of focus toward interior outfitting and finish efforts. To celebrate, Broward County Vice Mayor Barbara Sharief, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler and local community leaders helped raise the American flag, alongside the Brightline and **Moss & Associates** flags. To read more, please [click here](#).

For **City Furniture** President Keith Koenig, donating all furnishings for the University of Florida's (UF) new Dasburg House offered a welcome opportunity. As an active UF "Gator" alumnus, he views the stately 7,440-square-foot home as far more than the official residence for the school's president. To Read more, please [click here](#).

The **City of Sunrise** has inspired innovative and unique initiatives related to scholastic and community chess. The efforts of the City Commission and City staff led to Sunrise being named by the United States Chess Federation "Chess City 2015", joining cities like New York City, Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Miami. Sunrise is now taking the next steps with the newly formed "The Sunrise Center for Excellence in Chess." To read more, please [click here](#).

GUNSTER, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that its 2016 roster of 25 attorneys honored by Florida Trend as Legal Elite makes Gunster one of the top 3 firms with the most honorees, according to the publication. Gunster's 25 honorees are made up of 21 Legal Elite + 4 Legal Elite Up & Comers. Florida Trend's Legal Elite listing is

an exclusive annual honor that represents fewer than 2 percent of active Florida Bar members. Five of Gunster's Legal Elite honorees have achieved an even greater distinction: inclusion in the publication's Hall of Fame, having consistently earned high rankings from their peers. To read more, please [click here](#).

JM Family Enterprises has been ranked as one of the [2016 Best Workplaces for Women](#), according to global research and consulting firm Great Place to Work® and Fortune. JM Family ranked #67 on the list, which is based on employees' assessments of communications with management, options for development and training, and support for work/life balance, among other factors. To read more, please [click here](#).

Mink and Mink, Inc. sold Commercial/Flex Space Condo in Broward County at the Marina Mile Business Park Condominium III, 2890 State Road 84 #105, Dania Beach to Atlantic Radio Telephone. The seller was represented by Mink and Mink's Broker Associate, Nikki Smith, also a LEED Green Associate. This 1,978 square foot commercial condo unit in Dania Beach has an 85% office and 15% warehouse use allocation. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Eduardo Fernandez, General Manager of the **Sonesta Fort Lauderdale**, on being named the 2016 General Manager of the year by the statewide **Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association** at its recent annual conference.

Congratulations to the following Alliance members and member companies for being honored at the **South Florida Business Journal's** Ultimate CEO Awards: Alliance Chair and CEO Council Member Penny Shaffer, **Florida Blue**; Tom Miller, **Miller Construction Company**; Malcolm Butters, **Butters Construction and Development, Inc.**; Michael Daszkal, **Daszkal Bolton LLP**; Rachel Sapoznik, **Sapoznik Insurance**; **Greenberg Traurig** and **City National Bank of Florida**.

Stearns Weaver Miller announced that Jennifer Saltz Bullock, Rene F. Ruiz and Bridget Smitha were named among Benchmark Litigation's 2016 "Under 40 Hot List." The publication honors the achievements of the nation's most accomplished lawyers age forty or younger. Jennifer, Rene and Bridget were 3 of only 9 Florida lawyers listed. Benchmark Litigation compiled the list through a process of peer review and case examination. To read more, please [click here](#).

Alliance CEO Council member Howard Saltz, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the **Sun Sentinel**, has been reelected as Chairman of the Dean's Advisory Board of Florida International University's School of Communication + Journalism (SCJ). In this capacity, Saltz leads the board in accomplishing its mission of keeping the school abreast of current needs and future trends of the professions and industries it serves. To read more please [click here](#).

Dana Banker has been named managing editor at the **Sun Sentinel**. Banker will have responsibility for metro, sports, features/entertainment, business news, photo/video, and audience development. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **Sun Sentinel** has named Rob Cravaritis, a 21-year veteran in advertising sales and business development, as its new Vice President of Advertising. To read more, please [click here](#).

Tripp Scott recently highlighted the Alliance's work with an interview of CEO Bob Swindell in its eNews series, titled "Business Outlook is Bright for Broward County. To view the interview with Tripp Scott President Ed Pozzuoli, please [click here](#).

Tripp Scott recently announced that Kristopher Aungst, a director with the law firm, has been elected to the board of directors of Branches. Branches was established in 1973 as the urban and social justice agency. To read more, please [click here](#).

Tripp Scott announced that Ryan Lehrer, an attorney with the firm, was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced recently that it has been ranked #4 on the 100 Best Workplaces for Women list by *Fortune* and Great Place to Work. Rankings are based entirely upon feedback from more than 137,700 women surveyed nationwide at Great Place to Work-certified companies. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software announced that it has acquired San Francisco-based technology company Kanjoya, Inc., a leading workforce intelligence and analytics platform for enterprises. Using the technology acquired through Kanjoya, Ultimate is launching UltiPro Perception™ to help companies collect, understand, and act on employee feedback. The acquisition underscores Ultimate's commitment to optimizing the employee experience in order to drive employee performance and engagement. To read more, please [click here](#).

Featured Property of the Month





Davie Business Center - Building B
3350 SW 64th Avenue, Davie 33314
Type of space Mixed Use, Office
Listed by IDI Gazeley - Brookfield Logistics Properties
Additional details at GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com
[Click here](#)

Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance Permitting Action Team Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, October 5, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Porsche West Broward, Davie

For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, pdoty@gflalliance.org

Alliance Partner Council Meeting - October 13, 2016 (Invitation only)

Thursday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Broward County Public Schools, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Annual Dinner

Thursday, October 20, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Signature Grand, Davie

For more information, please contact Gail Bulfin at 954-627-0127, gbulfin@gflalliance.org.

Enterprise Florida Events

TPM Asia Conference

October 11, 2016 - Thu, Oct 13, 2016

InterContinental Shenzhen

Helitech International 2016

October 11 - Oct 13

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

GITEX Technology Week

October 16 - 20, 2016

Dubai, UAE

MRO Europe

October 18 - 20, 2016

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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

Sunrise Mayor's Chess Challenge

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Sunrise Civic Center - Grand Ballroom, Sunrise

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

SFBJ -2016 Technology Awards featuring CIOs AND Fastest Growing Technology Companies

Thursday, October 13, 5:30 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier 66, Fort Lauderdale

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

Dinner at the Square: Post Traumatic Election Syndrome

Thursday, October 13, 6:45 p.m.

Location: Hugh's Catering, Oakland Park

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

Realtors Commercial Alliance Symposium 2016

Thursday, October 13, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Lakeside Terrace Conference Center, Boca Raton

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

OIC of South Florida - The Middle Class Summit: Building, Elevating and Sustaining the Middle Class

Monday/Tuesday, October 17 – 18

Location: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hollywood, FL

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

4th Annual Block Party for Higher Education

Tuesday, October 18, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Las Olas between Andrews & SE 2nd Ave.

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

FAU Broward Networking Breakfast - Topic: Crisis & Disaster Management in the U.S.

Tuesday, October 18, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Florida Atlantic University, Davie Student Union, Heritage Hall-Room 105, Davie

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

2016 FITCE (Florida International Trade & Cultural Expo)

Wednesday/Thursday, October 19-20

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

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

2016 Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) TIGER Grant Celebration

Wednesday, October 19, 10:00 a.m.

Location: C-13 Canal/Lauderdale Lakes Greenway (Corner of NW 39 St and NW 29 Ave), Lauderdale Lakes

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

BCPS - 2nd Annual Debate Initiative Luncheon

Wednesday, October 19, 11:30 a.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Mary N. Porter Riverview Ballroom, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFBJ's Networking with the Biz Journal Team

Thursday, October 27, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Starbar at Starmark, Fort Lauderdale

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

Business for the Arts Broward - 2016 Cultural Tours

Friday, November 4, 8:30 am

Location: Bus Leaves from ArtServe

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

Broward County Public Schools' Ed Talk 2016/17

Saturday, Nov. 5, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

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).