February 28, 2017

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

**Top Stories:**

- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Broward County Public Schools Host Inaugural Claim Your Future Showcase
- Research Park at Florida Atlantic University Presents Alliance with the Economic Development Leadership Award
- *Business Facilities* names Alliance Hotwire Communications project Economic Development Deal of the Year Honorable Mention
- Save the Date for Six Pillars Broward Annual Report to the Community, April 18, 2017 – Broward College North Campus
- Save the Date for the Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon, Monday, May 15 – Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six

**Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Broward County Public Schools Host Inaugural Claim Your Future Showcase**

Nearly one thousand high school juniors participated in the inaugural Claim Your Future Showcase on February 8, 2017 at the BB&T Center in Sunrise. The students had an opportunity to explore a variety of career possibilities in Broward County and learn about the skills needed to pursue their professional goals.

The Alliance and the Broward County Public Schools’ Career, Technical, Adult & Community Education program worked in partnership to bring together over fifty local companies so that students could learn about career pathways that are open to them as the county continues to attract more employers. Students enjoyed interaction with executives and human resource managers from the Aerospace/Aviation/Engineering, Automotive/Construction/Manufacturing, Education, Financial Services, Government, Healthcare, Hospitality, Information Technology, Marine, Marketing/Communication, Public Safety, Property Management/Real Estate, and Transportation sectors.

The event also featured three executive panel discussions with fifteen Broward County business leaders representing a wide range of industries. In addition, students participated in mock interviews throughout the day and attended breakout sessions on the topics of professionalism in the workplace and resume writing, allowing them to work on their soft skills.

Bank of America and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Foundation, Inc. supported the event.

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

To view a video on the event created by BECON TV (BCPS), please [click here](#).
Research Park at Florida Atlantic University Presents Alliance with the Economic Development Leadership Award
Four winners of the 2016 Research Park Awards were honored at a presentation held on February 16 at the Technology Business Incubator (TBI), located within the Research Park's campus. “The forward-thinking companies and individuals that received the 2016 Distinguished Award from the Research Park at Florida Atlantic University demonstrate leadership and innovation,” said Andrew Duffell, president and CEO of the Research Park. “They are focused and dedicated to making their ideas work and have each contributed positively to the South Florida economy.” To read more, please click here.

Economic Development Deal of the Year Honorable Mentions
From the January/February 2017 Issue of Business Facilities magazine.
The blue-ribbon judging panel for our 2016 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition had so many great projects to evaluate, they bestowed a record seven Honorable Mention Awards. … The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance’s success in landing Hotwire Communications HQ project represented both a retention and expansion/relocation of the national headquarters of a telecommunications company that services residential markets throughout the U.S. The privately held company has been providing Gigabit Internet service since early 2013. It delivers its content through its own data centers and its private fiber networks across the county. To read more, please click here.

CareerSource Broward Launches Dynamic Online Internship Portal
CareerSource Broward - in partnership with Broward College - has developed BrowardIntern.com to help link businesses with talented and highly qualified young people seeking internships. The website (www.browardintern.com) allows any company that has an internship opportunity based in Broward County to post their open positions at no cost and gives students the ability to upload their resumes, via the online portal, to be seen by employers and human resources representatives looking for interns. To read more, please click here.

Save the Date for Six Pillars Broward Annual Report to the Community
Save the Date: Tuesday, April 18 from 7:15 – 9:30 a.m., for the Six Pillars Broward 2017 Annual Report to the Community, which includes breakfast, the annual Six Pillars update and results of the JPMorgan Chase & Co./Alliance Broward County Workforce Skills Gap Analysis findings. For more information, please click here.

Save the Date and Sponsorships Sought for the Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon on May 15
Reserve early for the 2017 Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon, presented by FPL on Monday, May 15 at Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six. The keynote speaker is Adam Putnam, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture. Last year’s luncheon sold out early, so do not delay your registration, seats are not guaranteed. Sponsors include - Presenting sponsor: FPL; Platinum Sponsors: JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, South Florida Business Journal and South Florida Business & Wealth. For more information, visit www.gflalliance.org/midyear; to sponsor the event, please contact Gail Bulfin at gbulfin@gflalliance.org.

Broward College Celebrates Opening of New Aviation Institute Annex and Announces Partnership with Tropic Ocean Airways
FAU Brain Institute Designated ‘Nikon Center of Excellence’
Respected and Successful Florida Policymaker Will Join FAU
Marine Sponge May Provide Antibacterial Solutions for MRSA
Broward County Public Schools Earns Prestigious Districtwide Accreditation for Five More Years
BCPS Announces 2017 School-Related/District Employee of the Year Finalists
Six Finalists Vie for the Coveted Broward County Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year Award
2016/17 Ed Talk Report
Mako Shark Takes Winter Break in South Florida
Spread of Lionfish in Gulf of Mexico is Threat to Reef Fisheries
Sharks Show Novel Changes in Their Immune Cancer-Related Genes

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

Alliance Member Companies in Bold

City Furniture’s opening of a dual-branded Ashley HomeStore Select and City Furniture showroom in the Vero Beach market is the latest step in the top-selling South Florida furniture retailer’s Treasure Coast/Central Florida expansion. Adjacent to the Indian River Mall, the 30,000-square-foot former Sports Authority store at 6560 20th Street was an unexpected and welcome opportunity, according to City Furniture President Keith Koenig, whose firm is the exclusive licensee for Ashley HomeStores in southeast and southwest Florida. “The Sports Authority auction last summer gave us a chance to speed up our timetable to create a presence in Vero Beach -- a crucial step in our northern growth strategy,” said Koenig. “We’re excited to bring local families a wide array of furniture choices and price levels, all with exceptional values,” he added. A long-time supporter of Habitat for Humanity in South Florida, City Furniture celebrated the Vero Beach store’s grand opening recently by presenting a $2,500 donation to the Indian River Habitat for Humanity. To read more, please click here.

Gunster, one of Florida’s oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce that land use attorney Heidi Davis Knapik has been named president-elect of NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association of South Florida’s board of
In January, the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, along with the Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organizations came together to host the 2017 Safe Streets Summit. Over 260 transportation planners, elected officials, and other advocates for better connected and safer streets gathered at the Sunrise Civic Center in Sunrise. They participated in dynamic plenary sessions focused on the building blocks needed for designing Complete Streets to provide safe facilities for all modes of transportation. This two-day event included a pre-conference workshop and a full day conference featuring local and nationally recognized speakers such as Charles Montgomery (award-winning author and principal of Happy City); Emiko Atherton (Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition); and Dale Bracewell (Manager of Transportation Planning for the City of Vancouver. To read more, please click here.

Broward County's Port Everglades had a record-setting month in December 2016, logging 104,590 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units, the industry’s standard measurement for containers), moving through the Port. This is the highest producing month in the Port's nearly 90-year history, and a 15 percent increase over December 2015. TEU counts at Port Everglades have been climbing since September. "Our customers are bringing in higher volumes of consumer goods such as produce, clothing and household goods as the region's population increases. It's an indication of a strengthening economy," said Port Everglades Chief Executive and Port Director Steven Cernak. He announced the record TEU count at Florida Governor Rick Scott's 2017 Jobs Summit in Orlando on February 2, 2017. To read more, please click here.

As sponsor of the ceremonial opening tee shot, South Florida-based internet of things (IoT) solutions provider, SATO Global Solutions supports children battling cancer at Allianz Championship Golf Tournament. Each year in the U.S., more than 15,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. But on February 10, instead of hospitals or radiation treatments, 13-year old cancer survivor Archit Datta is hitting the ceremonial opening tee shot at the Allianz Championship. To read more, please click here.

SUP-X: The Start Up Expo will begin with a Diversity in Entrepreneurship Forum on Monday, March 6th, that seeks to address communities that are historically under-represented and under-served in the VC/startup ecosystem. The forum begins with a keynote speech by Rachel Braun Scherl, a successful entrepreneur in female healthcare who blogs for the Huffington Post on leadership and breaking barriers in venture capital and entrepreneurship. The SUP-X Diversity Forum concludes with a fireside chat with Carmen Castillo, founder and CEO of SDI International, the largest Latina-owned business in the United States and one of the largest woman-owned businesses in the world. To read more, please click on Scherl or Castillo.

Tripp Scott today announced that Ian Lis, a director with the law firm, has been elected by the board of directors for HANDY to serve as its board chair. HANDY’s mission is to embrace, educate and empower vulnerable youth to become engaged, productive adults. HANDY annually serves more than 1,300 at-risk children who participate in comprehensive programs that focus on education, youth development and economic self-sufficiency. Lis, a director with Tripp Scott, focuses his practice in the areas of business and real estate transactions, entrepreneurial business services, and providing general counsel to businesses of all sizes in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors. To read more, please click here.

The Museum of Discovery and Science and United Way of Broward County have announced that United Way of Broward County has granted funding for a fourth year of APP- titude, a two-year internship for high school juniors. The internship will expose students to careers in engineering and computer science while being introduced to coding and APP development. The program provides students the opportunity to earn volunteer service hours, college credit, and a stipend while advancing their knowledge in STEM education. Students learn through an immersion experience at the Museum during the academic year and participate in a three-week, dual-enrollment course in the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Florida Atlantic University. Upon successful completion of FAU’s college level course, students receive three semester hours of college credit. During the second year, interns mentor the incoming students, continue working on APP development and introduce museum visitors to the APPs. To read more, please click here.

**Featured Property of the Month**

![Property Image]

**Pinnacle Group**
12175 NW 39th Street, Coral Springs 33065
Type of space: Office, Warehouse/Distribution, Industrial
*Listed by Sperry Van Ness Commercial Realty*
Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com
**Alliance Events**

**Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**  
Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Resolve Marine  
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, tviaixa@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Ambassador Council Meeting (Invitation only)**  
Monday, March 13, 2017, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: National Jets  
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, tviaixa@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Ahadef & Sitterson, P.A.  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, hkulp@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**  
Wednesday, March 28, 2017, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: TBA  
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, tviaixa@gflalliance.org

**Bridging the Gap - Six Pillars Report to the Community 2017**  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017, 7:15 a.m.  
Location: Broward College North Campus Omni Auditorium  
For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, pdoty@gflalliance.org

**Enterprise Florida Events**

**Expo Seguridad Mexico 2017**  
Tuesday, March 14 - Thursday, March 16  
International Trade Show, Mexico City, Mexico  
For more information, please click here.

**CeBIT 2017**  
Monday, March 20, - Friday, March 24  
International Trade Show, Hannover, Germany  
For more information, please click here.

**Intermodal South America**  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 - Thu, April 6  
International Trade Show, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
For more information, please click here.

**Aircraft Interiors Expo**  
Tuesday, April 4, - Thu., April 6  
International Trade Show, Hamburg, Germany  
For more information, please click here.

**World Strategic Forum**  
Wednesday, April 19 - Thu, April 20  
Trade Conference, The Biltmore Hotel Miami  
For more information, please click here.

**Export Trade Mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina**  
Sunday, April 23 - Thursday, April 27  
Export Sales/Trade Mission, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
For more information, please click here.

**Vietnam Manufacturing Expo 2017**  
Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, April 28  
International Trade Show, Hanoi, Vietnam  
For more information, please 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

Turnaround Arts Gala
Friday, March 3, 6:30 pm
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please click here.

SUP-X: The Start Up Expo 2017
Monday/Tuesday, March 6 – 7, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Broward County Convention Center
For more information, please click here.
Alliance Discount: 50% off General Admission Tickets: SUPX17GA99; 25% off VIP Passes: SUPX17VIP299

BCPS Debate Initiative - *Judges Needed 3/9/17
Wednesday, March 9, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Pompano Beach High School
For more information, please click here.

SFBW Excellence in Human Resource Awards 2017
Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.
Location: Weston Hills Country Club
For more information, please click here.

BCPS Debate Initiative - *Judges Needed 3/9/17
Thursday, March 10, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Pompano Beach High School
For more information, please click here.

Business for the Arts Cultural Tour
Friday, March 10, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please click here.

Village Square at Broward College Takeout Tuesday: Public Hospitals
Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Broward College
For more information, please click here.

United Way Magnolia Luncheon honoring Alice Lucia Jackson
Friday, March 24, 11:30 am.
Location: Celebrity Equinox Cruise Ship, Port Everglades
For more information, please click here.

GFLCC - Downtower of the Year Awards Luncheon
Thursday, March 30, 11:30 a.m.
Location: Global Event Center at First Baptist Church
For more information, please click here.

FAU - 2017 President’s Gala
Saturday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Martin F. and Jane Greenberg Foundation Tower at FAU Stadium, Boca Raton
For more information, please click here.

Broward Technical College Scholarship Foundation: Blue Jean & Bling
Tuesday, April 4, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Signature Grand, Davie
For more information, please click here.

Broward College 2017 Speaker Series - Angela Duckworth
Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts
For more information, please 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).


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