



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

## Top Stories

### **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](http://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.gfalliance.org/midyear](http://www.gfalliance.org/midyear); to sponsor the event, please contact Gail Bulfin at [gbulfin@gfalliance.org](mailto:gbulfin@gfalliance.org).

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



[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

directors for 2017. Davis Knapik has served on the board since 2014, and is co-chair of the programs committee. She will serve as president in 2018. Ms. Davis Knapik is a shareholder in Gunster's Fort Lauderdale office. She focuses her law practice on land use, zoning and development issues – representing landowners and developers with entitlements and development of land, including residential, commercial, office and industrial projects. To read more, please [click here](#).

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



### [Pinnacle Group](#)

12175 NW 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Coral Springs 33065

Type of space: Office, Warehouse/Distribution, Industrial

Listed by *Sperry Van Ness Commercial Realty*

Additional details at [www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com](http://www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com)

# Upcoming Events



## 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@gfalliance.org](mailto:tviaixa@gfalliance.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@gfalliance.org](mailto:tviaixa@gfalliance.org)

### **Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, [hkulp@gfalliance.org](mailto:hkulp@gfalliance.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@gfalliance.org](mailto:tviaixa@gfalliance.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@gfalliance.org](mailto:pdoty@gfalliance.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 a.m.

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](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](#), [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).