



March 6, 2018

Top Stories:

- Virgin Voyages to Create 300 New Jobs at New Headquarters in Broward County
- The Alliance and BCPS Partner for Second Annual Claim Your Future Showcase
- Broward College Awarded \$3.1 Million by State for Critical Occupation Response through Education Program
- Alliance Mid-Year Meeting to be held Thursday, May 17

Top Stories



Virgin Voyages to Create 300 New Jobs at New Headquarters in Broward County

Governor Rick Scott announced in mid-February that Virgin Voyages, a new cruise company by the global Virgin brands, has selected Plantation for their new headquarters, which will create 300 new jobs. The company will also invest \$15.9 million in the local community. Virgin Voyages cited the strength of Broward County's diverse, educated and multicultural workforce, infrastructure, quality of life, proximity to major seaports and a competitive tax and business environment as strategic reasons for headquarters location. Virgin Voyages will be hiring a range of roles in different departments from Finance to Customer Care. This project was made possible through partnerships between the State of Florida, the City of Plantation, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Broward County. To read more, [click here](#).

The Alliance and BCPS Partner for Second Annual Claim Your Future Showcase

On February 12, approximately 1,200 students will gather at the BB&T Center in Sunrise for the second annual industry-focused student career fair – Claim Your Future Showcase, hosted by Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. Bank of America has also returned as the event's major sponsor. "Access to good jobs helps people have better financial lives, which builds a stronger community," said Lori Chevy, Broward County market president, Bank of America. "The Claim Your Future Showcase is a great example of the business community working together to expose our youth to desirable career opportunities in unique industries, helping them envision their future contributions to a thriving economy in Broward County." To read more, [click here](#).

Broward College Awarded \$3.1 Million by State for Critical Occupation Response through Education Program

Today, Governor Rick Scott announced nearly \$23 million in awards for eleven additional Florida Job Growth Grant Fund projects across the state. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, established by Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature last year, provides \$85 million for improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training in Florida. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has received more than 235 proposals requesting more than \$825 million in funding. Today's announcement reflects a total of more than \$57 million in funding awarded to 21 communities across the state. To read more, please [click here](#).

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting to be held Thursday, May 17

Please mark **Thursday, May 17, 2018** on your calendar for the Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon at Pier Sixty-Six. This annual event has sold out the last few years. Please register early to learn about the Alliance's mid-year economic development progress. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Gail Bulfin, gbulfin@gflalliance.org or 954-627-1027. www.gflalliance.org/midyear

In the News



Daily Business Review - [South Florida Amazon HQ2 Could Be Spread Out on Public, Private Land](#)

CoStar - [Amazon Courtship Continues - Behind Closed Doors](#)

Sun Sentinel - [Amazon's HQ2 selection process has South Florida busy meeting 'intensive' data requests](#)

The Real Deal - [Will Amazon HQ2 bid help South Florida market itself as a region?](#)

South Florida Business Journal - [Greater Fort Lauderdale goes to Nashville as both cities compete for Amazon's HQ2](#)

South Florida Business Journal - [Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance returns from Nashville with new ideas for job creation](#)

WKRN ABC News (Nashville) - [Fort Lauderdale leaders getting growth ideas in Nashville](#)
Sun Sentinel - [Top tech employers step up hiring in South Florida](#)
Sun Sentinel - [Ford takes over BlackBerry plant, hires workers in Sunrise for autonomous vehicle research](#)
The Real Deal - South Florida Real Estate News - [Meet the gatekeepers to South Florida's Amazon HQ2 bid](#)
South Florida Business Journal - [Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance exceeds job creation, retention goals in 2017](#)
Florida Trend - [Virgin Voyages to Create 300 Jobs at New Headquarters in Broward County](#)
Sun Sentinel - [Virgin Voyages to create 300 jobs in Plantation](#)
South Florida Business Journal - [Billionaire Richard Branson's cruise line to create hundreds of jobs in Broward County](#)

Education and Workforce Development News



[Cypress Bay High School Student Recognized for 'Top in the World' Achievement in Prestigious International Examinations](#)
[Monarch High Teacher Named Broward's 2018 "Teacher of the Year"](#)
[Broward College Awarded \\$3.1 Million by State for Critical Occupation Response through Education Program](#)
[Broward College and BCEduventures, Inc. Announce the J. David Armstrong, Jr., Student Venture Fund](#)
[Broward College Wins \\$50,000 Siemens-Aspen Community College STEM Award](#)
[Broward College Announces New Bachelor's Program in Aerospace Sciences](#)
[Broward College News: National Science Foundation Grant Provides New Scholarship Opportunities](#)
[Broward College Graduates Highest Earners in the State](#)
[FAU Brain Institute Awarded \\$780,000 To Launch Ascend](#)
[FAU News: Intervention Helps Couples Affected by Alzheimer's Disease](#)
[FAU News: Who's Your Daddy? Good News for Threatened Sea Turtles](#)
[FAU News: Blind Cavefish, Extreme Environments And Insomnia](#)
[Women in Technology Seminar set at Nova Southeastern University](#)
[NSU's Marine Environmental Education Center to Celebrate One-Year Anniversary](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

Special Recognition – many **Alliance companies and partners** have been incredibly generous in assisting those impacted by the tragedy that happened at home here in Parkland. Individuals wishing to further support victims may do so at <https://www.gofundme.com/stonemandouglassvictimsfund>.

Marti's New River Bistro, the waterfront restaurant at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts** that serves modern American cuisine to theater patrons and the general public, has launched a new brunch and dinner menu. Marti's New River Bistro has a three-course prix fixe dinner menu perfect for theatergoers who want to savor a relaxed dinner before the curtain rises. To read more, [click here](#).

The 2018 Broward & Beyond Business Conference, supported by the **Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development**, is seeking prize donors for the inaugural BizBeyond Pitch Comp, a business pitch competition for exceptional entrepreneurs in the startup, growth-stage or nonprofit categories. For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.broward.org/EconDev/conferences/Pages/BrowardandBeyondBizCon.aspx> To donate a prize for the competition, please [click here](#).

Gunster, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, is pleased to announce the promotion to shareholder for six associate attorneys of the firm. "The board of directors has invited a few of our talented associates to become shareholders of the firm, a memorable milestone in every lawyer's career," said Bill Perry, managing shareholder of Gunster. "This year, six individuals have earned the right to be called a shareholder at Gunster and will play an important part in the firm's future." Among the attorneys honored were two from the Fort Lauderdale office: Gus Schmidt, Corporate law - promoted to shareholder and Michael Marshall, Environmental & land use law who was a significant lateral hire in the past year. To read more, [click here](#).

Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), the largest marine trade organization in the Southeast United States, has announced its partnership with the region's certified Google Street View content provider to launch a first-of-its-kind resource that will bring the popular Google Street View technology onto the Intra-coastal Waterway and the network of connected waterways, as well as to the many waterfront and land-based businesses serving boaters. To read more, [click here](#).

The **Jim Moran Institute** Executive Programs of Broward and Palm Beach County are offering Free training program for business owners, CEOs, and nonprofit leaders for Fall, 2018. Applications accepted through March 31, 2018 for South Florida! There are several programs from which to choose: Small Business Executive (SBEP), Nonprofit Executive *(NPEP) and CEO Peer2Peer Groups. For more information and to apply, [click here](#)

South Florida auto dealership group owners **Rick and Rita Case** had double reason to celebrate Monday: Rick Case Honda in Davie was honored with the 2017 Honda President's Elite award —and this was the 10th year the dealership has received the top honor. The President's Elite Award recognizes that Rick Case Honda had the biggest volume in sales last year of all Honda dealerships in the

country, as well as the best customer service and employee training. "No other dealer in the country has received the President's Elite Award 10 years in a row," said Rita Case, co-owner with her husband of Rick Case Automotive Group, headquartered in Sunrise. To read more, [click here](#).

South Florida Business and Wealth (SFBW) is seeking nominations for its 2018 "Up & Comer" awards for business and community leaders under the age of 40. Nominate here: <http://sfbwmag.com/signature-events/up-comers/nominate-2/>

Ultimate Software, today that Fortune and Great Place to Work have ranked Ultimate #3 on their 2018 list of the 100 Best Companies to Work For. This marks Ultimate's highest-ever ranking, honoring our commitment to developing a "People First" workplace culture built on collaboration, camaraderie, and care for all individuals. "From the beginning, it's been about people. Respect, honor, and trust in everyone, every day," said Scott Scherr, CEO, president, and founder of Ultimate. "We've never wavered in our core belief: when you put your people first, they'll take care of one another, your customers, and your business. Our focus on people is the reason we're here—it drives the innovative HR technology we create and the industry-leading customer service we provide. Today, 27 years in, we're stronger than ever, and our success starts with every one of our employees. They're our family, and Ultimate's our home. We take great pride in our people and this recognition. We'll continue to put people at the forefront of all we do. Always." To read more, [click here](#).

Ultimate Software also announced that the company has been ranked #16 on the 2018 Best Workplaces for Giving Back list, created by Fortune magazine and Great Place to Work. Rankings for this year's list considered survey feedback from more than 385,000 employees in organizations across the United States. As part of our companywide commitment to giving, Ultimate provides all full-time employees with three paid days per year for community service and volunteer work with charities of their choosing. The company also matches dollar for dollar the total amount of donations that its employees generously donate for certain global aid to victims of natural disasters and support for coworkers and their families in need To read more, [click here](#). [Click here for 2017 Ultimate Financial Results](#).

SUP-X has formed a partnership with the South Florida Technology Alliance to co-produce **SUP-X: The StartUp Expo**, July 26. For details on the event, visit <https://www.sup-x.org/>.

Congratulations to **VCM Builders** - celebrating 30 years in business. The company was recently recognized for the milestone by the City of North Miami Beach. VCM Builders is a full-service construction company with offices in North Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale. Their client portfolio features a wide variety of projects, including single-family homes, multi-family apartments and condominiums, townhome developments, tenant build-outs and interiors, commercial shopping centers and retail centers, university campuses and restaurants. Our firm also has significant experience with extensive renovations and offers Owner's Representation services as well.

Featured Property



[Lakeside Office Center](#)

600 N Pine Island Road, Plantation 33324

Type of space: Office

Listed by [Sandra Andersen](#) at JLL

Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events



[Alliance Events](#)

Alliance Ambassador Cabinet Meeting – (Invitation Only)

Thursday, March 5, Noon.

Location: National Jets, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.

Location: City of Tamarac, 7525 NW 88th Avenue, Tamarac

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

Alliance Entrepreneur Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

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

Location: TBD

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

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Governor Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, March 27, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

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

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 11:15 a.m.

Location: Pier Sixty-Six

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Gail Bulfin at 954-627-1027 or gbulfin@gfalliance.org.

Member/Partner Events

Excuse me, That's My Seat" GFL Chamber of Commerce Women's Council

Thursday, March 8, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: The Hub, 826 NE 4th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

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

Cey Adams - Art Means Business Lecture - Business for the Arts Broward

Thursday, March 8, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Stache Bar Drinking Den and Coffee Bar, 109 SW 2nd Ave, Fort Lauderdale

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

Shaping South Florida for Future Success

Tuesday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Ritz Carlton, Fort Lauderdale

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

South Florida Technology Alliance (SFTA) Tech Talent Fest

Tuesday, March 13, 2:00 p.m.

Location: NSU College of Engineering and Computing, Davie

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

Business for the Arts of 2018 Cultural Tour

Friday, March 16, Noon - 5:00 pm

Locations: Coral Springs Museum of Art, Coral Springs Center for the Arts, Bailey Contemporary Arts Center, Ali Cultural Arts Center, Steven Greenwald Design

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

Cherry Bekaert LLP: Selling Your Business Webinar

Tuesday, March 28, 12:00 p.m.

Location: Webinar

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

eMerge Americas Tech Event

Monday – Tuesday, April 23 - 24,

Location: TBD

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

Business for the Arts: Art & Soul

Friday, April 27 - 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: GALLERYone DoubleTree Suites by Hilton, Fort Lauderdale

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.

Enterprise Florida Events

Expo ANTAD & Alimentaria México 2018

Tuesday, March 6 - Thursday, March 8

Location: Guadalajara, Mexico

International Trade Show

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

Logistic Summit & Expo 2018

Wednesday, March 21 - Thursday, March 22

Location: Mexico City, Mexico

International Trade Show

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

FIDAE 2018

Tuesday, April 3 - Sunday, April 8

Location: Santiago, Chile

International Trade Show

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

World Strategic Forum

Monday, April 16 - Tuesday, Apr 17

Location: The Biltmore Hotel Miami

Trade Conference

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

EXPOFARMA 2018

Wednesday, April 18 - Friday, Apr 20

Location: Mexico City, Mexico

International Trade Show

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 more event listings, please [click here](#).

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

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).