Top Stories:

- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and BCPS Partner for Third Annual Claim Your Future Showcase
- Ocean Exchange Announces Its 2019 Event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida October 28-30, 2019
- Governor Ron DeSantis Announces His Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget for FY 2019-2020

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and BCPS Partner for Third Annual Claim Your Future Showcase
The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County’s official economic development partnership, collaborated for the third year with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) on an industry-focused career fair, the Claim Your Future Showcase. Geared toward high school juniors in the Career, Technical, Adult & Community Education (CTACE) program, the event takes a different approach to the traditional career fair. The event was sponsored by Wells Fargo, Bank of America, the BB&T Center/Florida Panthers, MasTec and Delaware North. On Wednesday, February 6, more than 1,100 students gathered at the BB&T Center in Sunrise to meet with representatives from more than 60 Alliance member companies, educational institutions and partner organizations. To read more, please click here.

Ocean Exchange Announces Its 2019 Event in Fort Lauderdale, Florida October 28-30, 2019
The ninth annual Ocean Exchange, to be hosted in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, will feature twelve innovative, sustainable worldwide solutions that demonstrate the ability to generate economic growth and increase productivity while reducing the use of nature’s resources. In its first year in Fort Lauderdale, Ocean Exchange announces its partnership with the Marine Research Hub of South Florida. The event will be held on October 28-30, within the timeframe of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. To read more, please click here.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces His Bold Vision for a Brighter Future Budget for FY 2019-2020
On February 4, Governor Ron DeSantis released his budget proposal for fiscal year 2019-2020, a Bold Vision for a Brighter Future. “Today I released my budget proposal for fiscal year 2019-2020 which not only satisfies a statutory requirement, it affords an opportunity to share a Bold Vision for a Brighter Future with my colleagues in the Legislature,” said Governor DeSantis. “My $91.3 billion budget proposal is aspirational yet attainable and recommends $335 million in tax cuts for Floridians. How we spend reflects how we serve and the people of Florida should be served by leaders who spend with fiscal restraint while addressing the pressing issues facing our state.” To read more, please click here.
Broward County opened nominations NatureScape Emerald Awards and Climate Action Leader Emerald Awards Recognition for a company or organization taking action to address global climate change here in Broward County. A winner will be chosen for each award category: GHG Reduction and Community Resilience. The NatureScape Emerald Award recognizes businesses, municipalities, schools, government facilities and homeowners that have created and maintained model Florida-friendly landscapes or completed exceptional projects. The Award Winners will receive their awards and trophies at a special ceremony during the 17th Annual Water Matters Day on March 9. To read more, click here.

BIG CHEF is the newest Broward County entrepreneur added to the Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center (FLVEC)! After acquiring the business in 2003, Big Chef owners and award-winning entrepreneurs, Mano and Rosana Calambichis, have built a health-conscious food company, providing food services to hotels, country and golf clubs, banquet halls. To read more, click here.

Business for the Arts of Broward is seeking entries from established and emerging artists for our 5th Annual Fundraiser on Thursday, April 11 at CIRC Hotel, 1780 Polk Street, Hollywood, FL (at Hollywood Circle), 6:00 p.m. Click here for full details: To read more, click here.

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) proudly bestowed the 2019 President’s Award for Excellence in Community Service Award upon automotive magnates and philanthropists Rita and Rick Case at its 21st Annual Celebration of Excellence (COE) gala held February 2. They join an impressive list of honorees that includes The Miniaci Family, Winifred and Joseph C. Amaturo, Mike Jackson, David Horvitz & Francie Bishop Good, Lorraine Thomas and Guy Harvey to name a few.

“If you’re looking for a great example of what it means to give back to the community, look no further than our backyard,” said Dr. George Hanbury, President of NSU. “The impact from Rita and Rick Case can be felt here at NSU, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County, American Heart Association, Cleveland Clinic, Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital, Habitat for Humanity and many other organizations throughout South Florida.” To read more, click here.

The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University® released its annual economic report to the community. The report highlights business contributions of Research Park companies to the South Florida economy, as well scientific discoveries and collaborations. 2018 was an exciting year for the Research Park at FAU as new products were launched and contracts were won by companies with strong links to FAU, said Andrew Duffell, president of the Research Park at FAU. “I am encouraged to see our companies are investing in healthy R&D budgets and am confident the returns on these investments will strengthen our region for many years to come.” To read more, click here.

The South Florida Manufacturers Association (SFMA) announced its list of candidates for their esteemed Manufacturer-of-the-Year Award. Seventeen companies from Miami-Dade County through the Treasure Coast made the 2019 finalist list. The winners will be unveiled at the SFMA’s 40th Recognition of Excellence Ceremony on March 13 at the Signature Grand in Davie. The finalists represent a group of companies that demonstrate excellence in all facets of their business. Companies were judged on Leadership, Strategy, Customers, Measurement, Knowledge Management, Workforce, and Operations. To read more, click here. For event info, please visit www.sfma.org/roe.

The SFTA held its 2nd Annual Tech Talent Fest at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center on February 28th. There were over 50 exhibitors – hiring companies, universities, entrepreneur support organizations, area non-profits, recruiting firms – and panels throughout the day. Organizations participating included Citrix, Consultis, Sherlock Talent, City Furniture, Career Source Broward, LaunchCode, The Academy of South Florida, Broward College and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance among others. To read more, click here.

United Way of Broward County announced that it has received a $150,000 donation from Florida Power & Light Company’s (FPL) charitable arm, NextEra Energy Foundation, to support the nonprofit organization’s “United We End Homelessness” campaign. For many years, FPL and its parent company, NextEra Energy, Inc., have partnered and supported United Way across multiple locations. “FPL recognizes that many people benefit from the vast safety net of programs and resources provided by United Way of Broward County,” said Juliet Roulhac, FPL external affairs regional manager. “Supporting partners such as the United Way that can work with like-minded community groups and implement strategies to tackle issues such as homelessness and mental health is just one of the ways we contribute to the communities we serve to make them better places to live, work and raise a family.” To read more, click here.
Congratulations to the Alliance member companies that were named to Fortune magazine and Great Places to Work’s 100 Best Companies to Work For list: #8 **Ultimate Software**, #12 **Publix Supermarkets**, #17 **JM Family Enterprises**, #40 **Baptist Health South Florida** #68 **Crowe** #92 **Bank of America**, and #97 **Delta Airlines**.

**Ultimate Software** announced that it has entered into a definitive merger agreement to be acquired by an investor group led by Hellman & Friedman (“H&F”), a leading private equity investment firm, in an all-cash transaction for $331.50 per share in cash — representing an aggregate value of approximately $11 billion — after which Ultimate Software (“Ultimate”) will operate as a privately held company.. To read more, click here. And Ultimate also released the financial results for the year ended and fourth quarter ended December 31, 2018. To read more, click here.

**Featured Property**

![Sabadell Financial Center](image)

Sabadell Financial Center  
150 S. Pine Island Road, Plantation 33324  
Type of space: Class A Office Space  
Listed by [Greg Martin](mailto:gmartin@avisonyoung.com), or [Peyton Moore](mailto:pmoore@avisonyoung.com), Avison Young  
Additional details at [www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com](http://www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com)

**Upcoming Events**

**Alliance Events**

**Alliance Partner Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)**  
Tuesday, March 14, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Art Park at Young Circle, Hollywood  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or [hkulp@gflalliance.org](mailto:hkulp@gflalliance.org)

**Alliance Leadership Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)**  
Tuesday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Art/Culture Tour, City of Pompano Beach  
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133, or [tvinaixa@gflalliance.org](mailto:tvinaixa@gflalliance.org)

**Alliance Corporate Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)**  
Wednesday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Brown & Brown Insurance, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or [hkulp@gflalliance.org](mailto:hkulp@gflalliance.org)

**Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**  
Tuesday: March 26, 2019, 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Magic Leap, Sunrise  
For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134, or [pdoty@gflalliance.org](mailto:pdoty@gflalliance.org)

**Member/Partner Events**

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13th Street Craft Beer and Car Show  
Saturday, March 2, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Location: NE 13th Street, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Sun Sentinel Solutions Summit  
Monday, March 4 - 8  
Location: Fort Lauderdale Marriott North  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward College Speaker Series: Terry Bradshaw  
Monday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, [click here](#).

Osher Lifelong Learning Series: Music is my Time Machine  
Tuesday, March 12, 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please [click here](#).

South Florida Symphony presents Masterworks III - featuring Svetana Smolina  
Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts - Amaturo Theater, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Henderson Behavioral Health Holland America Lunch  
Wednesday, March 20, 11:15 a.m.  
Location: Holland America "ms Zuiderdam", Port Everglades  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Osher Lifelong Learning Series: Making a Wetter Florida a Better Florida  
Tuesday, March 26, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Business for the Arts of Broward (BFA) 5th Annual Art & Soul  
Thursday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Circ Hotel, Hollywood  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Osher Lifelong Learning Series: The State of American Foreign Policy  
Tuesday, April 23, 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts  
For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward College Speaker Series: Hill Harper  
Wednesday, April 24, 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.

**Enterprise Florida Events**

Dubai International Boat Show  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 - Saturday, March 2, 2019  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Categorized in: International Trade Show  
For information, [click here](#).

MRO Americas 2019  
Tue, April 9, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. - Thursday, April 11, 2019 - 5:00 p.m.  
Location: Georgia World Congress Center  
Categorized in: Trade Conferences  
For information, [click here](#).
Export Sales Mission to Morocco
Sunday, April 14, 2019 - Thursday, April 18, 2019
Location: Casablanca, Morocco
Categorized in: Export Sales/Trade Mission
For 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 more event listings, please click here.

Connect with and follow the Alliance on Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn.
Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? Click here to find out (90 second video).