



Top Stories:

- Broward County adds 15,800 jobs year over year
- EFI Board of Directors confirms Jamal Sowell as President and CEO
- Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Hosts Successful IEDC Leadership Summit

Top Stories

Broward County adds 15,800 Jobs Year Over Year

Broward County's job report indicated a 3.1 percent unemployment rate in December 2018. This rate was 0.3 percentage points lower than the region's year ago rate of 3.4 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 15,800 jobs (+1.9 percent) over the year, with an employment of 866,300 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than the state rate (3.3 percent). The labor force was 1,038,689, up 16,082 (+1.6) over the year. There were 32,211 unemployed residents in the region. "We're very pleased to continue to see strong year over year overall job growth," said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "The job growth continues to be spread over a number of industries, which points to our success in diversifying Broward's economy working with our partners." To read more, please [click here](#).

EFI Board of Directors confirms Jamal Sowell as President and CEO

On January 7, the Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) Board of Directors held a conference call and unanimously voted to approve Jamal Sowell as the new President and CEO of Enterprise Florida. Sowell will also serve as Florida's Secretary of Commerce. Governor-Elect DeSantis said, "I am proud that Jamal Sowell has been confirmed by the Board of Directors to serve as EFI's new President & CEO. Jamal has the economic development experience to help grow Florida's economy and bring more jobs to our state. As a Veteran, he also understands the importance of protecting our military bases and missions to maintain our reputation as the most military-friendly state in the nation. I know Jamal will continue to use our state's economic development tools to make Florida the leader in business location, relocation and expansion." To read more, please [click here](#).

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Hosts Successful IEDC Leadership Summit

This week, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance hosted a successful International Economic Development Council Leadership Summit in Fort Lauderdale for more than 500 economic development thought leaders from around the U.S. and Canada. Many thanks to our members and partners who participated in the event as sponsors, attendees and speakers. To learn more about the conference, please [click here](#). To view photos, please [click here](#).

In the News

South Florida Business Journal: [These industries created the most Broward County jobs in 2018](#)

Marina Dock Age: [Study Shows Strong Growth in Marine Industry Economic Impact](#)

Miami Herald: [Miami lost Amazon's HQ2. Still, the area looks more attractive than ever, experts say](#)

Education and Workforce Development News

[FAU Establishes first NSF Funded Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning Lab in Florida](#)

[Five BCPS Teacher of the Year Finalists Are This Year's Standouts](#)

[BCPS Provides Progress Report on Recommendations in Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS Public Safety Commission Initial Report](#)

[Broward College Earns Top Spot in Florida for 2018 State Officer Certification Exam Pass Rate](#)

[Broward College Mobile Educational Unit Hits the Road to Increase Higher Education Opportunities for Adult Learners](#)

[NSU Researchers Examine Long-term Effects on Gulf War Veterans](#)

[NSU Professor Featured on CNN](#)
[Broward College Hosts Annual MLK Day of Service Events](#)
[New Art Exhibition Inspired by NSU's Marine Environmental Education Center](#)
[NSU to Host First Showing in the U.S. of Documentary Film Rubber Jellyfish](#)
[NSU Economics Expert Featured on WPBT](#)

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News



Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

BIG CHEF is celebrating 20 years in business and will host an anniversary celebration on Monday, Feb. 11 (*see member/partner events below*). The event will feature a tasting tour, strolling musicians, dessert displays, full bar and more. BIG CHEF employs 36 full time and 10 part time associates who represent 16 different nationalities. The health-conscious food company started in 1999 in Hollywood with 3,500 square feet and has since quadrupled their space to almost 15,000 square feet. To read more, [click here](#).

Broward Education Foundation, the only 501(c)3 direct support organization of **Broward County Public Schools** solely dedicated to transforming the lives of Broward County Public Schools students through the support of quality education, has elected four new officers to its board of directors. The new officers for Broward Education are Chair Frank Horkey, president of Horkey and Associates, P.A.; Chair-Elect Tim Curtin, administrative director of community services for **Memorial Healthcare System**; Treasurer Jean McIntyre, president and CEO of the **Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce**; and Secretary Ruth Lynch, director of grassroots advocacy of Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools and Director of Public Relations of Charter Schools of Excellence. To read more, [click here](#)

The **Broward Center for the Performing Arts** has announced that former U.S. Senator George LeMieux will chair the Campaign for the Parker. "It is an honor to lead this outstanding committee and raise funds for one of South Florida's most renowned entertainment venues," said LeMieux. "I was born and raised in this vibrant community and have a great appreciation for the Parker. I look forward to the impact the Parker's transformation will have for many years to come." To read more, [click here](#).

City Furniture has promoted Andrew Koenig, the son of co-founder Keith Koenig, to president. The Tamarac-based, family-owned company was established 47 years ago and has grown to include 29 City Furniture and Ashley HomeStore locations in Florida. It ranked No. 15 on the *Business Journal's* list of largest private companies in South Florida with \$363.8 million in revenue in 2017. Andrew Koenig was chief operating officer of the company and worked to boost efficiency. He's been with the company for 15 years. While he will relinquish the president job to his son, Keith Koenig will remain the company's chief executive officer. [click here](#).

FPL announced details on its plan to make Florida a global leader in solar power. FPL says it is planning to install 30 million solar panels across the state by the end of the next decade. Laid end-to-end, the 30 million solar panels would wrap around the Earth one and a half times. It would be the largest installation of solar panels by a regulated utility in the world and provide a 67-percent fleet-wide reduction in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions rates by 2030 as compared to the national average, according to FPL. FPL is the Sunshine State's largest solar producer, generating ten times as much solar power in 2018 than it did in 2016. FPL and its sister company, NextEra Energy Resources, are already the world's largest producer of renewable energy from the wind and sun and, when this plan is completed, FPL expects to be the largest utility owner and operator of solar in America. To read more, [click here](#).

David Denor has been named publisher of **Florida Trend**, a statewide business magazine. Denor, 47, replaces longtime publisher Andy Corty, who will continue as president of Trend Magazines. "I am honored and privileged for the opportunity to lead Florida Trend," Denor said in a release Friday. "For more than 60 years, Florida Trend has been regarded as the leading source of business news for Florida's influential business executives, government officials, entrepreneurs and civic leaders. I look forward to building upon the company's strong print and digital foundation." To read more, please [click here](#).

GrayRobinson, P.A. announced it has acquired Washington, DC based lobbying firm, Eris Group, LLC, effective February 1. The acquisition extends GrayRobinson's capabilities beyond Florida and expands its capacity to serve clients with federal lobbying needs. "Bringing together our resources significantly benefits both firms and our clients, integrating strong federal lobbying experience and enhancing our ability to help clients succeed at the intersection of law and politics," said Mayanne Downs, president and managing director at GrayRobinson. "Eris Group's seasoned lobbying talent is key to building out our federal component. This is in direct response to our clients requesting our services at the federal level." To read more, [click here](#).

Late last year among the holiday festivities, Broward County artist George Gadson received an honor worth way more than the \$100,000 check awarded to his not-for-profit Art-Turnatives for Building Communities (ABCs), by **The Jim Moran Foundation** in recognition of service to his community. "For this recognition and honor, I feel even more inspired to reach out to my community, to share my knowledge and my creative gifts and continue to pay it forward to the next generation," says Gadson. "The creative process is equally as important as the final product," he says, "and this is a legacy we share and nurture that can be both lucrative and fulfilling to a child." To read more, [click here](#).

Miller Construction has launched the fast-track build of law firm Kelley Kronenberg's new 35,000-square-foot headquarters within 595 Corporate Park of Commerce in Davie. With a mock courtroom, a rooftop terrace, and co-working spaces, the two-story, tilt-wall structure reflects the fast-growing law firm's innovative approach to creating a collaborative professional environment. Scheduled for summer 2019 completion, the building is designed to comfortably accommodate 150 employees. To read more, [click here](#). Miller

Construction is also on track for spring 2019 delivery of a new 55,000-square-foot headquarters in Hollywood for pioneering metal additive manufacturer Sintavia. Currently based in Davie, Sintavia plans to add 110 jobs at the new Class A facility, which will house administrative offices and over \$25 million of advanced manufacturing equipment, according to Sintavia CEO Brian Neff. "With 3D printers and other technology accelerating our industry's growth, we expect our new headquarters to serve as a template for future additive manufacturing facilities worldwide," he said. "Precision and craftsmanship are the lifeblood of our industry, and Miller brings those same qualities to creating Sintavia's new home." To read more, [click here](#).

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) will proudly bestow 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 to be held February 2. They join an impressive list of honorees that includes The Miniaci Family, Winifred and Joseph C. Amaturio, Mike Jackson, David Horvitz & Francie Bishop Good, Lorraine Thomas and Guy Harvey, just 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](#).

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) #25 at **Port Everglades** is helping Broward County businesses gain Zone status faster as part of the national "Alternative Site Framework" program. Recently the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign-Trade Zone Board (FTZB) approved an application for FTZ #25 at Port Everglades to operate under its Alternative Site Framework (ASF). This authorization speeds the FTZ approval process by eliminating temporary minor boundary modifications, acreage re-designation, and other minor procedures that take time to process under the Traditional Site Framework. To read more, please [click here](#).

The **South Florida Business Journal** has named Michael Adams managing editor. In this role, Adams will oversee newsroom operations under the direction of Editor-in-Chief Mel Meléndez. His responsibilities include supervising and editing reporters, and the distribution of vital business news across publishing platforms such as online, mobile, email, print and social media. To read more, [click here](#).

Tripp Scott announced that Stephanie Toothaker, a director with the law firm, has been elected to serve as a member of the advisory board for the Broward County Salvation Army. Toothaker is a Martindale Hubbell AV rated partner and leads the firm's land use department. From 2011 through today, Stephanie has been regularly recognized as a Super Lawyer and by Florida Trend's Legal Elite. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced that the company is ranked #1 on 2019's Best Workplaces in Technology list by Fortune and Great Place to Work. Rankings for the list considered survey feedback from more than 220,000 employees at technology companies across the United States. This marks the 4th consecutive year Ultimate has been named the top large company on the list. "We are honored to be a leader in creating the kind of positive, collaborative workplace that fuels creativity and ingenuity," said Vivian Maza, chief people officer at Ultimate. To read more, please [click here](#). Ultimate Software also announced that the company has been named to Forbes magazine's America's Best Employers for Diversity 2019 list. Ultimate ranked #35 of 500 companies representing a variety of industries—from technology, healthcare, and retail to hospitality, construction, and finance—with thousands of employees working across the United States. To read more, please [click here](#).

Featured Property



[Cypress Creek Financial Center - 11th Floor](#)
5900 N Andrews Avenue, Suite 1100, Fort Lauderdale
Type of space: Class A Office Space
Listed by [Jarred Goodstein CBRE](#)

Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Permitting Action Team Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, February 13, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance offices, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Partner Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, February 14, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Alliance Offices, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting - (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, February 14, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Pompano Beach

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or 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 954-627-01333, or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday: March 25, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Magic Leap, Sunrise

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

Member/Partner Events

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Friday, February 1, 2019

Various locations

2019 Claim Your Future Showcase

Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: BB&T Center, Sunrise

For more information, please contact Susan Climan at 954-627-0126 or scliman@gflalliance.org

Broward College Speaker Series: Marlee Matlin

Wednesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.,

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts

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

BIG CHEF Celebrates 20 Years!

Monday, February 11, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Big Chef, Davie

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

Davie-Cooper City Chamber: 2019 State of the Municipality Address

Wednesday, February 20, 11:00 a.m.

Location: Long Key Nature Center, Davie

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

BCPS 2019 Caliber Awards

Thursday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.

Location: Bailey Hall, Broward College A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, Davie

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

ULI - The Fort Lauderdale Emerges: Development & Investment Forum

Monday: February 25, 1:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Ritz Carlton Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale

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

SFTA: 2nd Annual Tech Talent Fest

Thursday, February 28, 1:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale / Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, [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

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

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.gfalliance.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](#).
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).