May 31, 2019

Top Stories:
- Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Features address by Governor DeSantis, Economic Results, Awards and SunTrust Grant
- Broward County adds 16,400 jobs year over year
- Advertise in the 2020 Alliance Economic Sourcebook

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting Features address by Governor DeSantis, Economic Results, Awards and SunTrust Grant
The Alliance hosted its Mid-Year Luncheon, presented by FPL, on Wednesday, May 8 to an audience of nearly 600 members and guests at the Pier Sixty-Six Resort and Marina in Fort Lauderdale.

Alliance President/CEO Bob Swindell and Chair Nelson Fernandez, Executive Vice President & Principal of ANF Group, Inc., reported the following results of the Alliance’s ongoing work as the official public/private partnership for economic development in Broward County: More than $216 million in capital investment by Alliance-assisted companies since the start of the Alliance fiscal year that began October 1, 2018; 1038 new jobs and 409 retained jobs. Companies assisted included Decimal Engineering, (Coral Springs), DNA Labs International (Deerfield Beach), ICON International (Fort Lauderdale), Techtronic Industries (Fort Lauderdale) and Wayman Aviation (Pembroke Pines).

Governor Ron DeSantis was the event’s guest speaker. He shared some of the results and milestones of his administration’s first months and the legislative session, which recently concluded in Tallahassee. To read more, click here.

Broward County adds 16,400 jobs year over year
Broward County’s job report indicated a 2.8 percent unemployment rate in April 2019. This rate was 0.5 percentage points lower than the region’s year ago rate of 3.3 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 16,400 jobs (+1.9 percent) over the year, with an employment of 867,000 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region’s jobless rate was 0.1 percentage points lower than the state rate (2.9 percent). The labor force was 1,028,942, up 1,562 (+0.2) over the year. There were 28,670 unemployed residents in the region. To read more, click here.

Advertise in the 2020 Alliance Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile
The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, in partnership with the South Florida Business Journal, is producing its annual Economic Sourcebook & Market Profile of Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County. Our flagship marketing publication, the Sourcebook is sent to national and international business executives when they contact the Alliance regarding a potential company relocation or expansion. It debuts at the Alliance Annual Dinner and is also mailed to all Alliance members, distributed to all South Florida Business Journal Broward subscribers, placed in select hotels, and distributed to Chambers and business resource organizations. In total, 11,000 copies will be distributed and it is available for complimentary download on the Alliance website. To advertise, please contact Yasmine Gahed at 786-533-8204 or ygahed@bizjournals.com.

In the News
Sun Sentinel: Seminole Hard Rock seeks 1200 new workers for guitar-hotel expansion
GlobeSt.com: Brightline, Branson and Beckham Usher in New Era for Broward County
Orlando Business Journal: Panelists: Why Florida firms should care about LGBT workplace equality
Florida Trend: Off the Street - Florida Trend Editorial on Homelessness
Fort Lauderdale Magazine: Trading Up
Florida Trend: Off the Street - Florida Trend Editorial on Homelessness
Sun Sentinel: Gov. Ron DeSantis delivers post-session report to Broward business leaders
South Florida Business Journal: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance celebrates midyear economic impact
South Florida Business Journal: Dirt Devil manufacturer to move HQ to Fort Lauderdale
Alliance Sarav developed recognizable graphic characters he refers to as “monsters” and earned his moniker “Golden.”

Cristhian “Golden” Saravia on Friday, June 14 at the Fort Lauderdale Brightline Station, in Fort Lauderdale.

Business for the Arts of Broward (BFA) continues its 2019 Arts Mean Business Speaker Series with street artist, illustrator and painter Cristhian “Golden” Saravia on Friday, June 14 at the Fort Lauderdale Brightline Station, in Fort Lauderdale. The event is free and open to the public. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Saravia comes from generations of illustrators and furniture designers. He developed recognizable graphic characters he refers to as “monsters” and earned his moniker “Golden.”

Broward College Celebrates Student Achievements at Spring 2019 Commencement
Broward College and Magic Leap Partner to Impact Students and Faculty via the World of Spatial Computing
FAU: Algorithm Steers Catheters to Target for Treating Atrial Fibrillation
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation receives $300,000 donation to support shark research at NSU
NSU Researchers Part of Ambitious Plan to Save Coral Reefs

Alliance Member Companies in Bold

As corporate demand for solar energy rises, Advanced Roofing, Inc. (ARI), Florida’s largest commercial re-roofing and solar contractor, has acquired Davie-based electrical contractor MSC Electric Inc. “Adding MSC’s proven talent to our team enables us to streamline schedules, control costs and be a single source for commercial clients, whether we’re helping them meet aggressive renewable energy goals, or update roofs with more durable, energy-efficient systems,” said Clint Sockman, ARI vice president. To read more, click here.

All aboard for a cultural experience like no other! Brightline and Rail Events Productions have announced the launch of the Havana Special Rum Train, departing Virgin MiamiCentral select dates June 14 to 29. Designed for adults 21 years of age and older, the Havana Special Rum Train presents the deep historical and cultural connections between Cuba and Miami. Told through the lens of the railroad (which played a critical role in the development of Miami) and highlighting the future of South Florida rail travel via Brightline, the Havana Special Rum Train will transport passengers back to a golden era paired with premium rail travel. In partnership with Cuban-American rum distilleries, professional entertainment, and historical commentators, this one-of-a-kind summertime event is a must for lovers of Cuban culture. Click here for more details.

Congratulations to Broward County Libraries Division Director Kelvin Watson, who has been named 2019 Librarian of the Year by the Florida Library Association (FLA). This prestigious award recognizes outstanding, ongoing contributions to Florida librarianship based on exemplary leadership skills, commitment to free access to information for all Floridians, promotion of reading and the increased use of library materials, creativity and innovation. “It is an honor to have been selected by my peers for this highly coveted award,” said Watson. “As a chief librarian and library director, my vision for Broward County Libraries is to decrease barriers and increase equitable access through technology, public outreach and the expansion of the many unique programs and services we currently offer.” To read more, please click here.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts recently honored its volunteers who donate their time to one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, which serves more than 130,000 students annually. Plantation resident Aven Roberts, who has volunteered at the Broward Center for 13 years, was named Education Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding and dedicated service to the children of Broward County. As ushers for the Student Enrichment in the Arts program, the Broward Center’s volunteer corps makes it possible for the students of Broward County to enjoy free performances throughout the school year. More than 3.3 million students have passed through the doors of the Broward Center since 1991 when the Center opened, and the number of programs continues to grow. To read more, click here.
GrayRobinson’s Attorney Peter Quinter Recognized by Chambers USA as One of the Leading Customs and International Trade Lawyers in the World. Known for his credibility, diligence and unfailing commitment to excellence, Peter Quinter was recognized by Chambers USA in the Global category in the International Trade: Customs practice and Customs and International Trade Law. In addition to Mr. Quinter’s achievements, GrayRobinson was also recognized in bankruptcy/restructuring, construction, labor & employment, real estate and litigation: general commercial. To read more, click here.

The City of Plantation was recently highlighted by GlobeSt.com in an article titled, “Plantation Sees More Investment as it Evolves into an Urban Suburb.” To read the article, please click here.

Adding 107,429 square feet of self-storage space to the Aventura market, Miller Construction Company has completed an $8.4 million CubeSmart facility for owner Urban Storage Fund, LLC. The two-story structure at 19301 West Dixie Highway, Aventura, includes 993 individual climate-controlled storage units that each provide between 25 and 300 square feet of space, and an additional 75 locker units.

Sally On Media, a public relations and content marketing company, is teaming up with UniteUs Group, a consulting firm offering a full range of brand-building and content-marketing services to mid-sized and large corporations. In particular, UniteUs Group can now meet high client demand for multimedia content marketing by adding Sally On Media to its retinue of strategic partners. To read more, click here.

The Sun Sentinel recently awarded six business leaders with their annual Excalibur Awards. Among the winners were, Alliance members James Donnelly of Castle Group, and Gino Santorio, CEO, Broward Health. Donnelly was recognized as the Large Business Leader in Broward County. Santorio’s was named Next Excalibur Award honoree, recognizing the next generation of leaders whose voices will contribute to the growth and sustainability of business and civic life in Palm Beach and Broward counties. Andy Cagnetta, CEO of Transworld Business Advisors was also recognized.

The Sun Sentinel was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for public service for its coverage of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy. The Pulitzer Prize is considered journalism’s highest honor. To read more, please click here.

The Pulitzer Prize Board also honored the staff of eight student journalists from The Eagle Eye newspaper at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School at a recent luncheon in New York City. The Sun Sentinel donated $5,000 for the student journalists to attend the luncheon, and new Alliance CEO Council Member Spirit Airlines provided free flights for The Eagle Eye staffers. To read more, click here.

Tripp Scott recently announced that Douglas H. Reynolds, a director with the firm, is the 2019 recipient of the Russell E. Carlisle Advocacy Award. The Russell E Carlisle Advocacy Award is given annually by Legal Aid Service of Broward County to an advocate whose actions exemplify a personal and professional commitment to making to the poor and disadvantaged. Throughout his career Reynolds, who is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Business Litigation and Marital and Family Law, has performed pro bono legal services in our community. In addition, Reynolds has been actively involved in various local non-profit corporations and schools. To read more, click here.

Ultimate Software, a leading global provider of human capital management (HCM) and employee experience solutions in the cloud, announced the successful completion of the acquisition of Ultimate by an investor group led by Hellman & Friedman, a leading private equity investment firm. The acquisition was previously announced on February 4, 2019 and closed and became effective on May 7, 2019. Ultimate will continue to operate under the leadership of CEO Scott Scherr and the existing senior management team, while owned by an investor group led by Hellman & Friedman in partnership with significant investors Blackstone, GIC, and Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), and other investors including JMI Equity. To read more, click here.
Alliance Events

**Alliance Entrepreneurship Council (Invitation Only)**
Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
Location: XTREME Action Park, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132, or lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Thursday, June 13, 2019, 8:30 a.m.
Location: City of North Lauderdale Commission Chambers
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Tuesday, June 18, 8:30 a.m.
Location: GrayRobinson, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org or click here.

**Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Wednesday, June 19, 8:30 a.m.
Location: GUNSTER, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Tuesday, June 25, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Zimmerman, Advertising, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134 or pdoty@gflalliance.org

**Member/Partner Events**

**Business for the Arts Speaker Series - Cristhian Saravia (GOLDEN)**
Friday June 14, 7:30 a.m.
Location: Fort Lauderdale Brightline Station, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, click here.

**Small Business Leadership Conference**
Wednesday, June 26 – Friday, June 28
Location: JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, Orlando
For more information, click here.
2019 SFAMC Golf Tournament Benefiting ST. Jude's Children Research Hospital
Reception, Tuesday, July 10; Tournament on Wednesday, 11, 7:00 a.m.
Location: Trump National Doral, Miami
For more information click here.

SUP-X Startup Competition
Thursday, July 25, 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center
For more information: 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

Export Sales Mission to Vietnam
May 31 - June 8, Chi Minh City & Hanoi, Vietnam
For information, click here

Veterans Florida Expo
June 15, 8:00 a.m., Hilton Orlando
For information, click here.

International Paris Air Show 2019
June 17, 2019 - June 21, 2019, Paris, France - Le Bourget
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.

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).

#WhyGFL - Click here to find out why millennials and emerging leaders love living and working in Greater Fort Lauderdale