Top Stories:

- Fort Lauderdale Area Created More Than 11,000 New Jobs Over the Year

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Fort Lauderdale Area Created More Than 11,000 New Jobs Over the Year

On December 20, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the Fort Lauderdale area added 11,400 new private-sector jobs in the past year. The Fort Lauderdale area’s unemployment rate was 2.6 percent in November, down 0.5 percentage point from one year ago. To view the November 2019 employment data, please click here.

In the News

South Florida Business & Wealth: Life Sciences Businesses find success in South Florida - SFBW
Sun Sentinel: Another viewpoint: Infrastructure critical to growing Florida economy
South Florida Business Journal: Technology companies hungry for talent at 8th annual ITPalooza
Sun Sentinel: Record low unemployment a boon for job-seekers in Broward and Palm Beach counties

Education and Workforce Development News

Broward College Awarded $200,000 Grant from Bank of America to Expand Broward UP
BCPS Announces Finalists for Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year
BCPS Announces Five Finalists for School-Related Employee of the Year
BCPS Announces Five Finalists for Teacher of the Year
NSU Names New Dean of its College of Computing and Engineering
Broward Technical Colleges are #1 in the State Again in Post-Secondary Industry Certifications
Laz Gutierrez Tapped to Lead Nova Southeastern Baseball
Ninth Annual Broward Student Research Symposium Unites FAU Broward and Miami Dade College Students
FAU: Second Season of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is Underway at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Florida Blue Foundation Generously Supports FAU Davie Nursing Student Scholarships
“Virtual Reality” Online Faculty Innovation Hub to Open at the FAU Davie Campus
FAU: Native Voices: Native People's Concepts of Health and Illness Set to Open at University/College Library Davie Campus
FAU Davie Student Wins Talon Leadership Award
Brookings Institution Scholar Michael Hansen Lectures Before FAU Davie STEM class

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

ArtServe, a non-profit that supports artists committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, is presenting “Roots of the Spirit: Soulful Expressions of the African Diaspora” from Jan. 15 through Feb. 27, 2020, coinciding with Black History Month. Under the artistic direction of Consulting Curator Ludlow E. Bailey, “Roots of the Spirit” is a multimedia exhibition and performance series exploring African customs and aesthetics – from ancient traditions to works produced exclusively for this show. A collaboration with The Miramar...
Cultural Trust further supplements the exhibition with "Imagine Puppets," a national collection of handmade figures representing the post-slavery era of puppetry, created by contemporary African-American artists. To read more, please click here.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts has announced the multi-year commitment of Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, part of the University of Miami Health System and South Florida's only National Cancer Institute-Designated center. This support will be recognized with the naming of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center Intermezzo Lounge, a premium hospitality experience at the Broward Center. “We welcome Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center as a supporter of the Broward Center as it extends its impact throughout South Florida,” said Kelley Shanley, President & CEO of the Broward Center. To read more, please click here.

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee John Fogerty comes to the Au-Rene Theater at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, February 22 for the Broward Performing Arts Foundation’s 2020 Annual Celebration to support the education and enrichment programs at the Broward Center. The evening’s festivities begin at 5 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by dinner, the show at 8 p.m. and a post-show party at 10 p.m. To read more, click here. The Foundation also named real estate expert Michelle Howland to the Broward Performing Arts Foundation board of directors. To read more, please click here.

Dahlia Baker, Principal at Collective Community Initiatives, LLC. has been selected to serve as 2020 Vice-Chair of the Broward County Small Business Development Advisory Board. She will promote participation of Broward businesses in the procurement activities at an important time with 30% small business participation goal on all eligible Surtax projects. To read more, please click here.

On December 3, the Broward County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to award OIC-Si a $4.2 million contract over the next 5 years. This contract will allow OIC of South Florida to provide additional job opportunities to South Florida residents. OIC of South Florida’s Social Enterprise division (i.e., OIC Strategic Integration -- OIC-Si) is a for-profit division that expands workforce options for its clients and supports the needs of the business community. In partnership with Broward County Transit (BCT), the division provides job training and transitional employment opportunities to returning citizens, individuals with disabilities, and residents of the Broward Municipal Services District (BMSD). In just three years, the division’s success is attributed to improving the cleanliness of BCT buses and earning an 89% customer satisfaction rating in 2018. To read more, please click here.

In June 2020, FAU’s SeaTech Campus/Ocean Engineering program is hosting the 39th International Conference on Ocean, Offshore & Arctic Engineering (OMAE 2020) in Fort Lauderdale. This is a major conference for which FAU is expecting over 1200 attendees from around the world. It will provide a great opportunity to highlight Fort Lauderdale and Broward County businesses. The conference is being held at the Diplomat and will provide opportunities for sponsorship and for holding exhibit booths promoting businesses. For more information, please click here.

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, a non-profit organization that conducts scientific research and hosts educational programs aimed at conserving the marine environment, has awarded the Guy Harvey Scholarship Award to eight graduate students from universities across Florida including two students from FAU and three students from FIU. Since its inception, 57 students have received more than $250,000 in scholarships. To read more, please click here.

FLL released additional updates on the renovation of its north runway, which reopened on October 1. Since the reopening, grooving and final pavement markings have been completed. Grooving of the runway pavement is a safety measure designed to enhance the braking capabilities of arriving aircraft. For the latest information on the renovation, please click here.

Congratulations to Alliance Partner Council Chair, Sandra Veszi Einhorn, who was appointed to the Florida Housing Finance Corporation by Governor Ron DeSantis. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation was created 35 years ago to assist in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities for Florida residents. To read more, please click here.

A video of the 5th Annual Florida International Trade and Cultural Expo (FITCE) 2019 was released on December 13 on YouTube and will remain on YouTube and via the FITCE website. To read more, please click here.

Gunster, one of Florida’s oldest and largest full-service business law firms, announced that the firm earned 11 national and 49 ‘Tier 1’ rankings in Florida from U.S. News – Best Lawyers ‘Best Law Firms’ for 2020. Additionally, the statewide firm received 49 ‘Tier 1,’ 18 ‘Tier 2’ and 11 ‘Tier 3’ rankings in seven major markets. Gunster’s national rankings jumped 9% from last year. Also, its Florida ‘Tier 1’ rankings grew to at least two specialties recognized in each major market. To read more, please click here.

Miller Construction is underway with the Class A, 197,122-square-foot Building 4 for EastGroup Properties at Gateway Commerce Park. Fast-tracking EastGroup Properties’ Miami-Dade market expansion, Miller has already delivered 397,494 square feet of upscale industrial space in Buildings 1 and 5 at the business park in Miami Gardens and expects to complete the newest distribution/warehouse structure in spring 2020. To read more, please click here.

Miller Construction has completed another project for Foundry Commercial, creating 318,043 square feet of next-generation industrial space in two new buildings at Miami Central Commons business park in Doral. To read more, please click here.

Broward County’s Port Everglades Department and the Dominican Republic Port Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as part of a joint Sister Seaports agreement on December 5. As Port Everglades’ largest trading partner in 2018, the Dominican Republic Port Authority has agreed to enter into an MOU to promote bilateral trade. To read more, please click here.

In December, Port Everglades welcomed two ships in a Plaque and Key Exchange ceremonies. Princess Cruises' newest ship, Sky Princess was honored on December 4. To read more, please click here.
On December 11, Costa Cruises’ Costa Luminosa celebrated her first season homeporting at Port Everglades. To read more, please click here.

Port Everglades also beat its own world record on December 1, 2019, with 79 more cruise passengers than its previous record set in 2016. Once all the manifests were tallied, a total of 55,964 passengers sailed in and out of Port Everglades in a single day, topping the previous record of 55,885 set in March 2016. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software recently announced that co-CEO Scott Scherr will be retiring on December 31, 2019, as planned, after almost 30 years serving as the company’s founder, president, and CEO. In line with the company’s long-standing succession plan, Ultimate’s Board of Directors appointed Adam Rogers—previously serving as co-CEO for Ultimate alongside Scherr—as Chief Executive Officer effective January 1, 2020. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software also announced that Glassdoor has ranked Ultimate #8 on its list of Best Places to Work in 2020. This marks Ultimate’s highest-ever ranking on the list and its third consecutive year. To read more, please click here.

Ultimate Software also announced that it ranks #9 on the Best Workplaces for Diversity 2019 list by Fortune and Great Place to Work (GPTW). The ranking considers feedback from millions of employees surveyed at thousands of organizations across the United States, specifically analyzing the daily workplace experiences of women, underrepresented races/ethnicities, LGBTQ+ people, Baby Boomers and older generations, and people with disabilities. To read more, please click here.

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**Featured Property**

![The EpiCenter](image)

The EpiCenter
200 E Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale 33301
Type of space: Office
Listed by Jarred Goodstein, CBRE
Additional details at [www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com](http://www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com)

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**Upcoming Events**

**Alliance Events**

**Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Thursday, January 9, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Location: TBD
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Council Connect**
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Location: Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach
For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 / tvinaixa@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Corporate Council**
Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Location: TBD
For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

**Alliance International Action Team Meeting (Invitation Only)**
Thursday, January 16, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Port Everglades Administration Building, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Liza Bongiovi at 954-627-0132 or lbongiovi@gflalliance.org

**Alliance Permitting Action Team Meeting**
Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Location: Alliance Offices, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134 / pdoty@gflalliance.org

**Joint Alliance Governor & Leadership Council Meeting**
Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Location TBA
For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134 / pdoty@gflalliance.org

**Member/Partner Events**

**SFBW Presents Women of Influence Series**
Thursday, January 9, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Location: Pier South Marina, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please click here.

**Lauderhill Business Revolution - Vision Brunch**
Thursday, January 16, 2020, 9:30 a.m.
Location: Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, Lauderhill
For more information, please click here.

**BCPS 2020 Caliber Awards**
Thursday, January 16, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center
For more information, please click here.

**ArtServe - Roots of the Spirit VIP Reception**
Saturday, January 18, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please click here.

**FAU College of Business - Business Leaders of the Year -- Rita & Rick Case**
Monday, January 27, 2020, 7:00 a.m.
Location: Boca Raton Resort & Club, Boca Raton
For more information, please click here.

**Super Bowl LIV 2020 Breakfast (Presenting Sponsor: First Horizon Bank)**
Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:00 a.m.
Location: Diplomat Beach Resort Hotel, Hollywood
For more information, please click here.

**ArtServe presents Roots of the Spirit Community Reception**
Saturday, February 1, 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Location: ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please click here.

**AeroEngines Americas 2020 - Conference**
Tuesday, February 4 – Thursday, February 6, 2020
Location: JW Marriott – Turnberry, Aventura
For more information, please click here.

**Broward Education Foundation Hosts 23rd Annual Innovative Teacher IDEA EXPO**
Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8:00 a.m.
Location: NSU – Rick Case Arena at the Don Taft University Center
For more information, please click here.

**2020 Claim Your Future Showcase**
Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 8:00 a.m.
Location: BB&T Center, Sunrise
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**

**Arab Health 2020**
Monday, January 27 - Thursday, January 30, 2020
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
For more information, please [click here](#).

**Export Sales Mission to Ghana**
Monday, February 3 – Friday, February 7, 2020
Accra, Ghana
For more information, please [click here](#).

**Singapore Airshow 2020**
Tuesday, February 11 - Sunday, February 16, 2020
Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore
For more information, please [click here](#).

**Executive Healthcare & Technology Investment Mission**
Friday, March 6 - Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Orlando, Florida
For more information, please [click here](#).

**Dubai International Boat Show**
Tuesday, March 10 - Saturday, March 14, 2020
Dubai, United Arab Emirates
For more information, please [International Trade Show](#)

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](#).


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