



Photo by Ken Henson – ken@whitehotmedia.com

The Alliance E-Newsletter
April 29, 2013
Top Stories

To see a list of 2013 Alliance events, please [click here](#).

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting on May 2nd! For more details, please [click here](#) or see story below.

***Business Facilities Magazine* Presents 2013 Economic Development Excellence Award to Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance**

Business Facilities Magazine, the source for corporate site selectors, has named the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, Broward County's official public/private partnership for economic development, as the winner of its highest honor, the 2013 Excellence in Economic Development Award (population greater than 500K). This 2013 honor follows *Business Facilities'* 2012 announcement of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance as its inaugural Economic Development "Achievement in Public/Private Partnerships" Award winner.

"*Business Facilities'* annual Economic Development Awards honor the agencies and organizations that have established and consistently executed the best practices in our industry, bringing measurable success in targeted economic development to the locations they represent," stated *Business Facilities* Editor-in-Chief Jack Rogers. "This year, we have selected the best of the best in more than a dozen award categories, including overall economic development excellence awards and best practices awards that cite achievements in specialized programs like public-private partnerships, business retention and targeted incentives."

"I'm very pleased to inform you that the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance has been chosen to receive our Economic Development Excellence Award (Population Greater than 500K). This award is our highest honor, in recognition of the best practices and superior development strategy you have put in place and consistently executed to bring new facilities, relocations and expansion to the Greater Fort Lauderdale area", Rogers said. "The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance – through its CEO Council – and through its headquarters marketing and recruitment initiative – set a new standard of excellence in 2012 for the delivery of high-quality, effective economic development programs. These programs have resulted in substantial upward mobility for current and new Broward County residents, while providing substantial return on investment to local municipal partners through the generation of new revenue as a result of capital investments. In 2012, a national TV ad blitz continued to promote Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County's strong business value proposition. The campaign, built on the tagline of "Life. Less Taxing", aired for six months in the NY/NJ/CT, Boston and Chicago markets. Key to the new marketing campaign was a new CEO Council sponsored hosting event for leading corporate real estate executives, site selection consultants and media outlets, which included a reception at Nova Southeastern University's new \$50 million Oceanographic Center."

Also highlighted were the Alliance's strong performance in headquarter expansion and relocation projects including Astor & Black and SmartWater CSI, as well as 24 other projects including Aero Turbine – the largest industrial spec development lease in the last 5 years in Broward County, Turbine Controls, Saveology and Stretch Wrap Packaging which resulted in 1,664 new jobs, 1,689 retained jobs and more than \$88 million in capital investment. In addition, the Alliance's expanded international business activities, partnership with Broward County's WorkForce One employment center, support of the Grow Florida program for technical assistance and capital access to second tier high growth companies, establishment of a Port Everglades Action Team led by CEO Council member Terry Stiles, and the Business Retention and Visitation Outreach (BRAVO) were specifically noted.

CEO Council founding and current Chairman Ray Ferrero, Jr. said, "This 2nd consecutive annual national honor by Business Facilities again ratifies the CEO Council's foundational studies including the initial assessment conducted by Jim McGraw of KMK Consulting, followed by the National Competitive Ranking Assessment by John Rhodes of MS&B and the 3 year Strategic Blueprint & Implementation Plan for headquarters recruitment by Del Boyette and his team at Boyette Strategic Advisors, along with the marketing and branding initiative developed by Jordan Zimmerman and his team at Zimmerman. These foundational studies, all underwritten privately by the CEO Council, along with the National Competitive Incentives Analysis by Jay Biggins of Biggins Lacy & Shapiro, have brought the collective wisdom of the nation's top economic development consultants to bear on Greater Fort Lauderdale, and the results of executing their recommendations under the direction of CEO Council Managing Director Robin Ronne have proven we are on the right path to continued success."

"We are extremely proud of this honor for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance," said Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry. "It is a testament that our public-private partnership is recognized as one of the best in the nation and is a wonderful recognition for all of Broward County – one in which its business community and residents can take pride.

"We are very proud to be the recipient of this award, and this recognition combined with the lowest unemployment rate of the largest counties in Florida, validates our unique formula for economic and job growth," said Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "We have many people to thank including our partners at Broward County, the municipalities in Broward County and the numerous private sector companies who provide their time, talents and financial resources to growing jobs in Broward County. We are pleased to share this award with them and are grateful for their support and involvement."

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting and Luncheon May 2nd

Join Broward County and South Florida's business and community leaders to hear about the exciting progress being made in growing jobs and strengthening our economy at this year's Mid-Year Meeting and Luncheon. This event, one of the premier business events of the year, will be held on May 2nd at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 in Fort Lauderdale beginning with a reception at 11:15 a.m. with lunch and program at noon. Keynote speaker, Diane Sánchez, CEO, Technology Foundation of the Americas and tech superstar, will share her vision on how technology will redefine South Florida in this decade. Join us for our Mid-Year report and this transformative call to action. Presenting sponsors of this year's event include BankUnited and FP&L. Platinum sponsors include AutoNation, Broward College, Hyatt Regency Pier 66, JM Family Enterprises, the South Florida Business Journal and Zimmerman. Compass Office Solutions is a silver sponsor. Thank you to our partner, Broward County.

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



Diane Sánchez

Florida Ranks No. 1 for Innovation, Report Says

Florida has been named the No. 1 state in America for innovation by *Fast Company* magazine. The May 2013 issue features an article titled “A Sunny Outcome: Why Florida’s Startups Are Soaring High.” The state also had the second-highest rate of new business production, a high ranking of Fundable’s (a crowdfunding platform) venture capital rankings and the No. 3 ranking for annual revenue per startup. To read the article in *Fast Company*, please [click here](#).

WorkForce One to Hold Paychecks for Patriots Veteran Hiring Fair

Please join leading Broward County companies in participating in the inaugural “Paychecks for Patriots” Hiring Fair on May 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Airport Sheraton Hotel in Dania Beach. The hiring fair is being hosted by WorkForce One Employment Solutions along with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Mission United, Red Cross and the United Way with the support of Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet. More than 300 veterans and their families are expected to attend the event. This is the perfect opportunity for your company to participate in a hiring fair that focuses on assisting our returning heroes in finding employment. The event is free for companies and veterans. To view a flyer about the event, please [click here](#). To secure a booth at the event, please visit <http://www.wf1broward.com/P4PEMPLOYERS>.

Port Everglades Targets Guatemalan Trade

Port Everglades, a major sponsor of the recent AGRITRADE Expo & Conference 2013, the largest international agricultural trade show in Central America, announced that Guatemala is a key target market for the South Florida port. All the key stakeholders related to the agricultural sectors of Central America gathered on March 14-15, 2013 in the colonial city of La Antigua, Guatemala for AGRITRADE. Hosted by the Guatemalan Exporters Association, AGRITRADE focused on integrating and strengthening the agro-industrial sector in the region and showcased the best of the region’s vegetables, fruits, and ornamental plants, foliage and flowers, as well as supply chain products and services. The event also offered Port Everglades staff the unique opportunity to meet with Guatemala President Otto Pérez Molina and other government officials. To read more, please [click here](#).

SunSentinel Salutes Excellence in Broward County Public Schools High Schools

Be sure to see the special feature “Saluting Educational Excellence in Broward County Public Schools” in the Sun Sentinel on Sunday, April 28th. The special section, sponsored by Broward College, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and the Sun Sentinel highlights educational excellence in each of the Broward County public high schools, along with recognizing outstanding senior students.

Alliance Economic Sourcebook Advertising Space Available

The Alliance is once again working with the *South Florida Business Journal* to publish its annual award-winning *Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Economic Sourcebook and Market Profile*. This valuable guide serves as a primary marketing tool to promote the entire Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area. The *Sourcebook* is distributed in a number of ways including to Alliance members, included in national and international marketing kits, available at Chambers of Commerce and Broward County libraries, distributed in the *South Florida Business Journal*, and can be viewed on the Alliance website. The *Economic Sourcebook* provides Alliance members with an outstanding marketing opportunity. For additional information, please contact Amy Allen at 954-949-7561 or aallen@bizjournals.com.

Education, Workforce Development and Educational Excellence Builds Business (E²B²)

Members wishing to serve on the E²B² Action Team may contact the Alliance for further details.

Two Broward County Public Schools Ranked Among the Top 20 Florida High Schools

Two Broward County Public Schools ranked among the Top 20 high schools in Florida according to *U.S. News & World Report's* ranking of high schools by state. Cypress Bay High School in Weston ranked fifteenth and Pompano Beach High School ranked seventeenth. To view the list, [click here](#).

Atlantic Technical High School Robotics Team Advances to World Championship

The Atlantic Technical High School TechTigers robotic team competed against 45 schools from around the country, Mexico and the Dominican Republic to win the FIRST Robotics Competition South Florida Regional held on March 30, 2013, at the Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale. To read more, please [click here](#).

BCPS Top African American Scholars Earn National Achievement Scholarships

Seven outstanding Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) seniors were named National Achievement Scholarship winners and each will receive a \$2,500 scholarship for their undergraduate studies. Each year, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation awards scholarships to African American students who have excelled in academics and have demonstrated the potential for academic success in college. This year, approximately 800 students were awarded scholarships totaling over \$2 million dollars. Forty-five of those students are from Florida, including seven seniors from six Broward County public schools. To read more, please [click here](#).

BCPS Honors Community Involvement Excellence

Broward County Public Schools recently honored parents, volunteers, mentors and business and community partnerships at its annual Community Involvement Awards. The theme for this year's community involvement celebration was "You Make a World of Difference."

The salute, which recognized more than 40,000 volunteers, mentors and partners who contribute to the success of students and schools throughout the school year, was held on April 10, 2013, at Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale. The honorees and their guests enjoyed a brunch and music performed by the Everglades High School Choir. For a complete listing of honorees and additional information, [click here](#).

Driftwood Middle School Named 2013 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School

Driftwood Middle School has been named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon school by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Chair of White House Council on Environmental Quality Nancy Sutley, and Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Bob Persiacepe. Driftwood Middle is among the 64 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools honored for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways. To read more, please [click here](#).

NASA Awards Cypress Bay High Team \$5000 Grand Prize for Space Settlement Design Project in International Competition

A six-student team from Cypress Bay High School in Weston won the \$5,000 Grand Prize in the 2013 NASA Ames Space Settlement Design Contest. The Cypress Bay team created a space settlement plan, "Maui," which was selected for the top award from 592 submissions entered by 1,536 students in 20 countries. To read more, please [click here](#).

Northeast High School Student Inventors Invited to White House Science Fair

Northeast High School student inventors Payton Karr and Kiona Elliot were hosted by President Obama on April 22 at the White House Science Fair, where they were celebrated with student winners of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions from across the country. The President, also on the occasion, announced new steps as part of his Educate to Innovate campaign, an all-hands-on-deck effort to get more girls and boys inspired to excel in these key subjects. To read more, please [click here](#).

Hollywood Hills High School Military Academy and McArthur High School JROTC Programs Ranked Among the Best Units in the Nation

The Hollywood Hills High School Military Academy and McArthur High School JROTC programs were awarded the coveted Honor Unit with Distinction from the U.S. Army Cadet Command. In March, the schools received formal inspection from the U.S. Army and earned the Honor Unit with Distinction rating, ranking them among the very best units in the nation. To read more, please [click here](#).

NSU to Offer New Program for College Students with Autism

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) has announced that beginning with the fall 2013 term, it will begin offering two new programs to address the needs of a growing population of students with autism. Services to be provided by the Autism Institute at NSU's Mailman Segal Center for Human Development, will provide specialized options for young children who require an individualized educational program to meet their needs and a college support program for college students enrolled at NSU. To read more, please [click here](#).

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News (Alliance members in bold)

Congratulations to **Bolton Medical**, which was recently honored as Manufacturer of the Year for Category 3 (over 100 employees) by the **South Florida Manufacturing Association**. Employees David Diaz of **Bolton Medical** and Ted Campton of **Nipro Diagnostics** were also recognized in the employee of the year category.

Rosana Santos Calambichis, President of **BIG CHEF™**, will participate in a panel titled: *Brazilian Women in America - Challenges and Achievement* at the 8th Annual FOCUS BRASIL-EUA. To read more, please [click here](#).

Citrix GoToMyPC has again been ranked as the market leader among remote access solutions – now for the fifth year in a row – by leading analyst firm IDC. To read more, please [click here](#).

Sharing the success of its newest Ashley Furniture HomeStore with the community, **City Furniture** this week donated \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Broward. The donation represents a portion of grand opening sales proceeds from the Ashley Furniture HomeStore that opened recently at 3775 North Federal Highway, on Fort Lauderdale's "Furniture Row." To read more, please [click here](#).

Colliers International South Florida is pleased to announce the sale of 350 Corporate Center, a multi-tenant office building located at 350 Jim Moran Boulevard, Deerfield Beach. The 55,356-square-foot, two story property sold for \$5,010,000 or just over \$90 per square foot in a financed transaction to Florida Motels Group, Inc. Executive Vice President John K. Crotty, CCIM and Chairman - Founding Partner Michael T. Fay represented the seller, FG Deerfield Partners, LTD. To read more, please [click here](#).

The mainsails have been hoisted on El Galeón for its historic Viva Florida 500 Voyage simulating Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León's arrival 500 years ago. El Galeón has departed from Puerto Rico en route to Florida as part of the state's Quincentenary commemorations. Ports of call will include Fort Lauderdale. The ship will stay at the Bahia Mar Marina, May 14 to 19 with viewing from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Free tickets can be obtained online at sunny.org/vivaflorida or by visiting the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University has entered into a formal agreement with TecnoCampus, a science and technological park located in the city of Mataró, in Barcelona (Spain). The partnership will establish a collaboration framework to create working synergies and develop interrelationships. The goal is to enhance internationalism through the sharing of ideas, facilities, and resources which will benefit both institutions by stimulating economic growth and creating new jobs. To read more, please [click here](#).

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) is seeking input as they develop a strategic plan "Moving Our Region Forward (SFRTA Forward)" that will present the vision of SFRTA to promote transit growth. Check out the SFRTA Forward website to sign up for updates and to take a survey to give your feedback now at www.sfrtaforward.com. For more information, and to read the Alliance's Business & Economic Development Blog on this project, please [click here](#).

City of Tamarac City Manager Michael Cernech, has been selected by ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, as the 2013 recipient of The Ferguson Group scholarship to the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Senior

Executives in State & Local Government Program. Cernech will attend the program this summer. To read more, please [click here](#).

Transwestern's Fort Lauderdale office announced that the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) named 110 Tower as the 2013 "Renovated Building of the Year" at The Outstanding Building of the Year (TOBY) Southern Regional Awards. 110 Tower is a Class A, LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified office building located in Fort Lauderdale's Central Business District. To read more, please [click here](#).

[Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events](#)

[Alliance Calendar of Events](#)

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting

Thursday, May 2 11:15 a.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 2301 S.E. 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale

Presenting sponsors of this year's event include BankUnited and FP&L. Platinum sponsors include AutoNation, Broward College, Hyatt Regency Pier 66, JM Family Enterprises, the South Florida Business Journal and Zimmerman. Compass Office Solutions is a silver sponsor.

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

Broward County Business Forum - "Is Your Business Ready to Grow?"

Tuesday, May 14 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Tamarac Community Center, 8601 W Commercial Blvd., Tamarac

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

Economic Gardening CEO Roundtable III (by invitation only)

Friday, May 17 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Citrix, 851 W. Cypress Creek Rd., Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Michelle Cook at 954-627-0132 or at mcook@gfalliance.org

Broward County Business Forum - "Is Your Business Ready to Grow?"

Wednesday, May 22 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Southwest Focal Point Senior Center, 301 N.W. 103rd Ave., Pembroke Pines

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

Alliance Tower Business Connect Breakfast Featuring Port Everglades

Friday, May 31 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, One Financial Plaza 100 SE 3rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Entrepreneur Council Meeting (Members only)

Wednesday, June 12 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: TBA

For more information, please contact Michelle Cook at 954-627-0132 or at mcook@gfalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Members only)

Tuesday, June 18 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Bolton Medical Inc., 799 International Parkway, Sunrise

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Members only)

Wednesday, June 19 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: First Citizens Bank & Trust, 6555 North Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Members only)

Tuesday, June 25 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: Young at Art Museum, 751 SW 121st Ave., Davie

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

Enterprise Florida Events:

Team Florida Mission to Chile

May 20-23

Santiago, Chile

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Various

Region: Latin America & the Caribbean

34th Hemispheric Congress of Latin Chambers of Commerce

May 21-24

Miami, Florida

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Various

Region: Latin America & the Caribbean

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

Other Events:

Broward County - Florida Export Opportunities: Germany

Tuesday, April 30 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Location: Broward College, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Room 1208, Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop

Wednesday, May 1 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: South Regional/Broward College Library, 7300 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines

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

Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop

Wednesday, May 8 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: North/Broward College Regional Library, 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd., Room NR 226, Coconut Creek

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

Paychecks For Patriots Veterans Hiring Fair and Workshops

Friday, May 10 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Sheraton Airport Hotel, 1825 Griffin Road, Dania Beach

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

Spanish Galleon: Viva Florida 500

Tuesday, May 14 through Saturday, May 19 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

Location: Bahia Mar Marina, 801 Seabreeze Blvd. Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop

Wednesday, May 29 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Northwest Regional Library, 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs

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

T.J. Reddick Bar Association, Inc. 21st Annual Awards & Scholarship Gala

Saturday, June 1 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Location: Hyatt Regency Pier 66, 2301 S.E. 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale

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

Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development Intentional Entrepreneur™ Workshop

Wednesday, June 5 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Hollywood Branch Library, 2600 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood

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

2013 South Florida Healthcare and Hospital Association Annual Healthcare Summit

Saturday, June 13-14

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL

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.

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

Also join our [LinkedIn group](#) (for members only).

Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? [Click here](#) to find out (90 second video).

