



Photo by Ken Henson – ken@whitehotmedia.com

The Alliance E-Newsletter
August 30, 2013
Top Stories

REGISTER NOW: Alliance Annual Meeting and Dinner, Thursday, October 17, 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
For more information and to register, please go to www.gflalliance.org/2013annual.

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

Citrix to Add 200 New Jobs in Fort Lauderdale

Governor Rick Scott today announced that Citrix, a provider of technology solutions that enable mobile workstyles globally, will expand its Fort Lauderdale offices. The development will generate 200 jobs and \$7.5 million in capital investments over the next three years.

Governor Scott said, "The growth of Citrix is great news for Florida families. These 200 new jobs are reflective of the work we're doing not only to create jobs, but to keep industry leaders like Citrix here in the Sunshine State to create opportunities for our families. More than 370,000 private-sector jobs have been added in just over two years, the unemployment rate continues to be below the national average and we've reduced burdensome regulations on businesses. IT'S WORKING in Florida."

Citrix began operations in Fort Lauderdale in 1989. The company has experienced rapid growth over the years and currently employs approximately 1,600 people in Fort Lauderdale and 8,800 employees globally. The company is primarily engaged in designing and developing solutions for mobility, desktop virtualization, cloud networking, cloud platforms, collaboration and data sharing.

“Continuing to build our team in Fort Lauderdale as Citrix grows is a reflection of our commitment to the community where the company was founded,” said Guy Desautels, vice president of Facilities and Real Estate at Citrix and Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance board member. “We are proud to bring new jobs to Fort Lauderdale and be a large part of South Florida’s Tech Gateway industry cluster. We appreciate the combined efforts of our partners at the State of Florida, Broward County, City of Fort Lauderdale, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Enterprise Florida.”

Florida is home to 15 Fortune 500 corporate headquarters and was ranked the #2 best state for business by Chief Executive Magazine for 2013. Florida is dedicated to being the most business friendly state in the nation by cutting taxes, reducing regulations and investing in education.

“Some of the most successful companies in the world call Florida home and Citrix is very high on that list,” said Secretary of Commerce and president & CEO of Enterprise Florida Gray Swoope. “Citrix was founded in Florida and they continue to expand here thanks to our pro-business climate, strong workforce, expansive infrastructure and unbeatable quality of life. We look forward to their continued growth and pioneering advances in the IT industry.”

Citrix is eligible for a Quick Response Training grant from Workforce Florida Inc. that would reimburse the company for a portion of the training costs associated with upgrading workers’ skills as part of its expansion.

“We are proud that Florida is a significant office for Citrix and we are committed to ensuring that as this company, like others in our state, creates new jobs, our talent supply system delivers the highly skilled workforce needed allowing them to compete globally and succeed,” said Chris Hart, President/CEO, Workforce Florida.

“The growth of Citrix is welcome news for Fort Lauderdale families,” said Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Jesse Panuccio. “Creating jobs to get Floridians back to work is the top priority for this administration and this announcement is another example that the pro-business policies Florida has in place are succeeding. Hiring 200 new employees, in high-wage, high-skilled positions will greatly benefit the South Florida Tech Gateway.”

Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler said, “We are delighted that leading corporations like Citrix continue to choose the City of Fort Lauderdale to grow and expand. In addition to being an outstanding international company, Citrix has been a great corporate citizen here in our community. This project exemplifies the dedication of our collective staffs, and the City’s commitment to job growth for our citizens. We are grateful to Citrix and wish them continued success.”

Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs said, “Broward County has long been a hub in the South Florida technology community and Citrix is an industry leader. We are so thrilled that the company not only continues to call Broward home, but has chosen to expand here, making a very positive impact on our local economy. We look forward to future innovations by the company being developed in Broward County.”

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell stated, “We are extremely pleased that Citrix is committed to growing its business in Fort Lauderdale. The mission of the Alliance is to attract and grow the presence of target industry companies in the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area that can take advantage of our highly educated and diverse workforce, world class quality of life and highly rated business and personal tax climate. Citrix has been and will continue to be a cornerstone of our strong and growing cluster of technology companies.”

Parallon Announces Expansion of Headquarters in Sunrise that will Add New Jobs And Capital Investment

Parallon, a leading provider of healthcare business and operational services, recently announced the expansion of the headquarters for its Workforce Solutions business unit in Sunrise.

Officials from the company and its location advisory consultant Ernst & Young LLP worked closely with the office of Florida Governor Rick Scott, Enterprise Florida, the City of Sunrise and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council to craft state and local incentives that will result in the addition of 125 new well-paying jobs along with retaining approximately 160 existing Florida jobs. The company will lease an additional 23,000 square feet of space at its existing headquarters located at 1000 Sawgrass Parkway, bringing its overall space to 62,000 square feet. The state and local incentives from Florida and the City of Sunrise total \$875,000 and consist of \$625,000 from the Qualified Target Industries Tax Refund Program along with \$125,000 from the Governor’s Quick Action Closing Fund and \$125,000 in a Direct Cash Incentive from the City of Sunrise for the hiring of Sunrise residents.

“Expanding our headquarters in Sunrise is a reflection of both our business growth and our commitment to the

community,” said Brendan Courtney, president of Parallon’s Workforce Solutions business unit. “To serve more hospitals and healthcare organizations, it’s crucial that we are able to meet the increasing demand for high-quality healthcare staffing. We’re proud to bring new jobs to Sunrise and appreciate all the combined efforts of our partners at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council, City of Sunrise, Enterprise Florida and the Governor’s office.”

Sunrise Mayor Michael Ryan said, “We are delighted that leading corporations like Parallon continue to make the City of Sunrise their location of choice. This project exemplifies the dedication of our staff, and the City’s commitment to new and expanding business enterprises. We are grateful to Parallon and wish them every success in Sunrise.”

According to Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council Chairman Ray Ferrero, Jr, “We are so very pleased to have had the opportunity to work with our partners at the City of Sunrise, Enterprise Florida and the Governor’s Office on behalf of Parallon. The CEO Council’s mission is to maintain and grow the presence of the more than 150 corporate and international headquarter operations in the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area that can take advantage of our world class quality of life, transportation access and highly rated business and personal tax climate, and Parallon’s decision provides further positive confirmation and ratification of our initiative.”

Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Company Unipharma to Launch International Headquarters in Tamarac

A Venezuelan multinational pharmaceutical company has announced that it is relocating to Tamarac by establishing operations as a new U.S. company, Unipharma, LLC.

Unipharma will use state-of-the-art, proprietary technology to manufacture pharmaceuticals, functional foods and nutraceutical products at its newly renovated facility, bringing 100 jobs to Broward County. These jobs represent an average salary of \$49,555 per year (115 percent of the annual average wage in the county). The addition of these pharmaceutical manufacturing jobs to the local economy helped secure Unipharma a total of \$500,000 in performance based incentives from the state, county and city through the State of Florida’s Qualified Target Industry tax incentive program over the next seven years. Additionally, the company will make a \$50 million capital investment in facilities and equipment between now and 2015.

According to the company, Unipharma will provide patients and end-consumers with a new delivery system for liquid nutraceutical and pharmaceutical products manufactured with Blow-Fill-Seal technology. This new delivery system will reduce accidental over-the-counter overdoses which are responsible for more than 15,000 annual deaths in the United States alone.

In addition to Greater Fort Lauderdale, other locations under consideration included Madrid, Spain, and Atlanta, Georgia. The company cited connectivity to foreign markets via the port and airport, a growing life sciences cluster and focus on contract manufacturing in the pharmaceutical and nutraceutical industries, as well as the ability to attract top talent due to quality of life as top advantages for relocation to Broward.

Florida’s Department of Economic Opportunity, Enterprise Florida, the City of Tamarac, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development worked together to locate the company to Tamarac.

“We are happy to say that we have begun another chapter in our company’s history with our new manufacturing site in Broward County. Our new facility will not only provide jobs for the local community, but it will support Florida’s growing Life Science industry as well,” said Reinaldo Santa Marta, CEO of Unipharma.

“Unipharma would like to thank all of the institutions involved in making this project a reality; their support has been invaluable. The local and state government is aggressively working towards attracting new projects to the state, and we look forward to continue working with the State of Florida on all of our future projects,” said Public Relations Manager Ralph Echeverria

Florida Governor Rick Scott said, “We are excited to announce that Unipharma has chosen to locate their pharmaceutical headquarters in Broward County. Our policies for Florida families and businesses to succeed are working. Florida’s unemployment rate is below the national average, and we’ve created more than 330,000 private-sector jobs since December 2010. The new jobs being created by Unipharma are another example that IT’S WORKING in Florida.”

Tamarac Mayor Beth Talabisco said, “Unipharma and Tamarac are a perfect match. We offer the facilities and

infrastructure, skilled workforce and quality of life so critical to meeting their goal of becoming an industry leader. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Alliance with additional successful outcomes, as more and more businesses come to realize why Tamarac is "The City For Your Life."

Broward County Mayor Kristin Jacobs said, "The relocation of Unipharma, LLC to Broward County underscores Broward County's position as a world-class destination for Life Sciences companies. This project will create significant economic impacts for our community, as the company is expected to occupy a 135,000-square foot facility, create 100 new high skill/high wage jobs, and make a capital investment of \$50 million. As Broward County continues its strategy of attracting new businesses from around the globe, we are pleased to welcome Unipharma, LLC to Tamarac."

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell stated, "We are extremely pleased that Unipharma will locate its new international headquarters in Tamarac. The mission of the Alliance is to maintain and grow the presence of target industry companies in the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County area that can take advantage of our highly educated and diverse workforce, transportation access and highly rated business and personal tax climate. Unipharma will be an important part of our strong and growing cluster of life science companies."

Camposol Holdings Expands its Footprint to North America with a Camposol Fresh USA Office in Pompano Beach

Camposol Fresh USA, Inc., a subsidiary of Camposol Holdings PLC (www.camposol.com.pe), the leading agro-industrial company headquartered in Lima, Peru and the largest exporter of asparagus in the world, announced the establishment of its first North American office in Pompano Beach. Established in 1997, Camposol owns all fields where its products are planted and harvested, and exports peppers, avocados, mangoes, artichokes, tangerines, and grapes, along with frozen shrimp.

Jose Antonio Gomez, Chief Commercial Officer for Camposol, said "We have achieved initial success in selling our fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables to major US markets in Florida and California, and believe that now is the perfect time to establish a commercial office to provide further market penetration and grow our base of business. Pompano Beach is an excellent location within the Greater Fort Lauderdale area from a shipping and logistics standpoint with Port Everglades, and the assistance provided by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council has helped to move our decision process forward. Our Camposol Fresh USA office is led by General Manager Javier Gutierrez, and we currently have 6 employees and anticipate growing to 10 employees in the next year. We appreciate the assistance provided by Robin Ronne of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council."

Camposol selected initial office space at 555 SW 12th Avenue in Pompano Beach, and also utilizes the services of Chiquita in the Port Everglades distribution center for cold storage and ripening services. In addition, the Behar Law Group provided corporate and immigration legal counsel services. Camposol has invested approximately \$650,000 in initial capital investment and related expenses.

Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance CEO Council Chairman Ray Ferrero, Jr. said, "We are delighted to welcome Camposol Fresh USA to Pompano Beach in the Greater Fort Lauderdale area where they join over 150 other corporate and international regional headquarters that call our area home. We are especially pleased to recognize the importance of Port Everglades to both Camposol's success and to the continuing economic growth of Greater Fort Lauderdale."

U.S. Gas & Electric Announces Plans to Move to Miramar

U.S. Gas & Electric, its subsidiaries and family of companies ("USG&E"), a supplier of natural gas and electricity to commercial and residential consumers in a growing number of states, has announced plans to combine its headquarters in North Miami Beach, and its contact center in Doral, into a new facility in Miramar. The company currently has 170 employees and is projected to hire another 250.

"This is a very exciting time for USG&E. Our new corporate headquarters and contact center will provide us with a larger space to better serve our growing customer and employee bases," stated Doug Marcille, Director, CEO and President of USG&E. "We will also be better equipped to create new job opportunities in the entire South Florida community."

The Alliance is providing assistance to the company regarding permitting, working with the City of Miramar, and in securing potential workforce training incentives.

The new USG&E corporate location will be in the top 3 floors of the Space Coast Credit Union building located at 3700 Lakeside Drive, Miramar - the lease includes approximately 50,000 square feet and naming rights to the building.

USG&E is a leading retail energy supplier to commercial and residential customers in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Greater Fort Lauderdale to be Highlighted in CoreNet Global The LEADER Investment Profile

The Alliance's CEO Council is pleased to provide an [advance copy](#) of the Investment Profile that appears in the upcoming September/October 2013 edition of CoreNet Global Corporate Real Estate's *THE LEADER Magazine*: "Low Taxes, Logistics and Lifestyle Lure Businesses to Greater Fort Lauderdale." Written by Joseph Dobrian, who has worked for the Wall Street Journal and New York Times, the profile captures the "Life. Less Taxing" brand and the many attributes Greater Fort Lauderdale provides for locating a corporate or international regional headquarters along with recent examples of headquarter relocations and expansions and the capacity-building investments underway at both Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport.

The article included excellent testimonials from Del Boyette of Boyette Strategic Advisors, Alex Blochtein of Emerson Latin America (and CEO Council member), Lynn Pitts of Florida Power & Light's Economic Development Group, Robert Land of JetBlue, Richard Dent of Astor & Black and Greg Burkart of Duff and Phelps. Copies of the entire *THE LEADER Magazine's* September/October edition with the Investment Profile will be distributed and available for the 2,000+ attendees at the upcoming CoreNet Global North American Summit in Las Vegas October 19-23, 2013, to provide an additional value add benefit. To view the profile, [click here](#).

State of Florida Profiled in *Southern Business & Development Magazine*

Southern Business & Development Magazine has just published and released its first special feature section on Florida since 2002, titled, "A Sleeping Giant Awakes! The moon and the stars are aligned for Florida's economy to break out". Author Mike Randle highlighted the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance's CEO Council headquarters marketing and recruitment initiative and included a photo from Governor Scott's visit for the expansion of Emerson's Latin American headquarters in Sunrise earlier this year, along with special mentions of our great partners Gray Swoope, Florida Secretary of Commerce and President/CEO of Enterprise Florida and Lynn Pitts, Director of Economic Development for Florida Power & Light. To view the profile, please [click here](#).

Alliance Annual Meeting set for October 17

Please register now to attend the Alliance's 2013 Annual Meeting! The annual meeting is our most important event of the year, where we present our economic development accomplishments for the fiscal year ending and introduce the community to our new and exciting plans for the upcoming year. The Alliance will also be presenting its annual economic development leadership awards. The keynote speaker will be Dave Barger, Chief Executive Officer, President, and Director of JetBlue Airways.

This year's dinner event will be held at the Signature Grand in Davie on Thursday, October 17 beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m. Sponsors of the event include (Presenting) Signature Grand (Platinum) Broward College, jetBlue, JM Family Enterprises, Lifestyle Media Group, South Florida Business Journal and Zimmerman; (Gold) AutoNation and FP&L; (Silver) BB&T, Florida Blue, Keolis America, Nova Southeastern University and Starmark. A special thanks also goes to our Partner, Broward County. For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact Gail Bulfin at 954-627-0127 or at gbulfin@gfalliance.org. To register, please go to www.gfalliance.org/2013annual.

Nominate Your Company Today: Alliance Education Award

Each year, the Alliance awards a member-company with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance "Educational Excellence Builds Business" Partnership Award. It will be awarded at the Oct. 17th Annual Alliance meeting presented by The Signature Grand. Nominations are easy. Just send an email with a paragraph or two of explanation on your non-commercial partnership or engagement with an educational institution by Friday, August 30th to [Gail Bulfin](mailto:Gail.Bulfin@GFAAlliance.org) at the Alliance.

All qualified applicants will be submitted to the Alliance's Education Action team for discussion and a vote. Winners will be notified in mid-September. It's that easy! Don't delay. Submit your company's name and accomplishments today. For additional details, [click here](#).

Join the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance for Broward County Business Forums: “Is Your Business Ready to Grow?”

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance/Broward County and WorkForce One Employment Solutions will be presenting the final two in a series of four free forums serving the four quadrants of the county for business owners titled: Broward County Business Forums: “Is Your Business Ready to Grow?” Business owners are invited to attend either of the free sessions. The first sessions in the series were held in May in Tamarac and Pembroke Pines; the final two will be held in September, in Dania Beach and Wilton Manors.

- Southeast – Thursday, September 12, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; I.T. Parker Community Center, 901 N.E. 3rd St., Dania Beach. To register, visit www.gflalliance.org/daniabeach
- Northeast – Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Hagen Park Community Center, 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors. To register, visit www.gflalliance.org/wiltonmanors

Forum speakers include: Terra Spero of RealTime Marketing, who will discuss using social media as a marketing tool for business; Neal Murray of Furman Insurance, who will discuss changes and updates to healthcare insurance for business owners; Rafael Cruz and George Gadson of the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in Broward, who will give an overview of resources available from the SBDC; Jasmine Jones, Community Relations & Outreach Manager for the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development, will discuss the procurement process for doing business with Broward County, and Jack Bennings of WorkForce One, who will discuss workforce resources for training and employment. Additionally, a mini-business expo will be held at the forums.

Super-Pathways to Prosperity: Sea, Air and Rail, Moderated by Terry Stiles (Presented by NAIOP South Florida)

South Florida reigns supreme as the gateway to the Americas. How does the swell in infrastructure and capital improvement projects at the region’s seaports, airports and railways position South Florida to play a much larger role in the global supply chain? Anticipation of the region’s starring role as a main hub in the global cargo market is already fueling a speculative industrial real estate boom. So how does the region’s geography, paired with billions of dollars of investments in state-of-the-art distribution facilities, transportation and port infrastructure projects finally poise the region to become the logistics behemoth of the Western Hemisphere? NAIOP’s elite panel of leading transit officials will discuss and examine the projects now underway at the region’s ports, airports and railroads and the latest trends in global trade that are setting a big stage for South Florida’s future, Wednesday, September 25, 2013 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami. For more information, please [click here](#).

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.

West Broward High School Teacher Selected for National Master Teacher Project

West Broward High School English teacher Dr. Elizabeth Watts is one of 96 educators recruited nationwide as “Master Teachers,” who will create lesson plans aligned with the Common Core State Standards being implemented in Florida and across the country. The BetterLesson Master Teacher Project, in collaboration with the National Association (NEA), is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. To read more, please [click here](#).

Governor Scott Presents Shine Award Teacher of the Year to Oakridge Elementary School Teacher

Governor Rick Scott recently recognized Broward County Public Schools own Evelyn “Evie” Schwartz, Oakridge Elementary School (Hollywood) teacher, as one of four 2013/14 District Teachers of the Year for her commitment to improving Florida’s education system. Governor Scott said, “Florida teachers are the cornerstone for this state’s education system. Through their innovative teaching techniques and understanding of how children need to learn, they are helping to nurture an educated, college and career-ready workforce.” To read more, please [click here](#).

FAU Awards More Than 1,660 Degrees at Summer Commencement Ceremonies

FAU conferred more than 1,660 degrees on August 6 during three commencement ceremonies in the Carole and Barry Kaye Performing Arts Auditorium on the Boca Raton campus. The new graduates will join more than 130,850 alumni who have graduated from FAU since the university opened its doors in 1964. To read more, please [click here](#).

Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce to Honor BCPS Technical Centers

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) Technical Centers – Atlantic Technical Center, McFatter Technical Center and Sheridan Technical Center – will receive the 2013 Salute to Business Education and Workforce Development Award by the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce. The Salute to Business is the Chambers largest award ceremony, honoring and recognizing outstanding businesses, business leaders and organizations that have an increasing positive impact on the community and in the Fort Lauderdale area. To read more, please [click here](#).

FAU Professor Receives NIH Grant for Project to Optimize Vaccines

Mahyar Nouri-Shirazi, D.V.M., Ph.D., has identified an immunologic agent that may optimize the effectiveness of vaccines in smokers and those exposed to secondhand smoke. Shirazi, an associate professor in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, aims to determine how this agent, in contrast to other agents already in vaccines or late clinical development, can restore vaccine responsiveness in nicotine-exposed hosts. He has received a two-year, \$148,958 R03 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health for his project titled "Overcoming the Degrading Effects of Nicotine on Vaccine Using TLR Agonists." To read more, please [click here](#).

Teachers, Principals and School Staff Get "Plugged In" to Digital 5: Pathways to Personalized Learning Initiative

Back to school preparations took on a high-tech theme for nearly 250 of the District's principals, teachers, media specialists and technology support staff, who recently participated in a day-long kickoff event for the new Digital 5: Pathways to Personalized Learning (D5) pilot initiative. As part of D5, approximately 3,200 fifth grade students from 27 elementary schools across the District and their teachers are each receiving laptops. Access to digital resources, online instructional materials, and other learning tools are also included in the initiative. The goal is to maximize student learning by allowing students to control the pace, place and path of their instruction. Students are able to incorporate their real-world techniques for gathering web-based research and data into their classroom experience. To read more, please [click here](#).

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

Becker & Poliakoff is proud to announce that George Burgess, COO of the firm and co-vice chairman of its Public Private Partnership (P3) Practice Team, has been appointed to serve on the task force created by the state's new P3 legislation. Appointed by Governor Scott, the Partnership for Public Facilities and Infrastructure Act Guidelines Task Force will recommend guidelines for creating a uniform process for establishing public-private partnerships as directed by Florida's new P3 law which took effect in July. To read more, please [click here](#).

Big Chef, a full-service catering company serving South Florida, has relocated, expanded and diversified. Located in Hollywood, Florida since 1999, **Big Chef** recently relocated to the town of Davie at the southwest corner of Griffin Road and 441/State Road 7. The new facility is located in the Broward Plaza at 4811 South State Road 7, Davie, FL 33314, with easy access from major highways. **Big Chef** has more than tripled in size to occupy nearly 14,000 square feet, accommodating new kitchens, prep rooms and a retail store. Eight new employees have been hired and continuous job creation is part of the company's growth plan.

The Alliance would like to congratulate David Armstrong, President of **Broward College**, for being named 2013-2014 Chair of the Leadership Florida board of directors at the organization's 2013 Annual Meeting on June 30. Also, congratulations to Audrey Ring, Vice President of Communications for **AutoNation**, who received the Leadership Florida Chairman's Award for her work reviewing and revising bylaws and organizational policies.

Broward County Administrator Bertha Henry has announced the appointment of Roberto "Rob" Hernandez as the new Deputy County Administrator. Hernandez is an experienced public servant who served as deputy county manager for Fulton County, Georgia, and most recently as deputy city manager for Coral Springs in Broward County. He is returning to County Government, where he first began serving the County in 1994 and most recently served as an assistant to the county administrator from 2003 to 2008.

Broward County has received seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo), which recognize innovation in county government programs. The County was honored for programs in environmental stewardship

and technology implementation. This follows a successful year of modernization and innovation from mobile capabilities to expanded internet access. NACo is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States and recognizes county government initiatives that improve service delivery, achieve greater cost efficiency, provide enhanced customer service and help to develop a better-trained work force. To read more, please [click here](#).

Broward County is proud to announce that North Perry Airport has clinched top honors at the 44th Annual Florida Airports Council Conference held in Lake Buena Vista, July 28-31. At the conference, the airport was named the "2013 General Aviation Airport of the Year" for outstanding achievements in airport aesthetics, safety and service in the state of Florida. The General Aviation Airport awards employs a written submittal nomination process enabling any airport, airport authority, local or federal government official, consultant, contractor, industry partner, or Florida Department of Transportation staff to submit a nomination recognizing excellence in a number of industry categories. To be eligible, nominees must be a public-use, general aviation airport in the state of Florida.

State and federal agencies in **Broward County** are working to finalize a pilot program to bring grapes and blueberries from Peru and Uruguay into Port Everglades and PortMiami beginning in October 2013. The permit to proceed is expected to be approved this month. Currently, due to decades-old regulations, grapes, blueberries and other perishables are first brought into the United States through North Atlantic seaports that have cooler climates. If the pilot program is proven successful, fruit could be shipped directly to South Florida and delivered to local grocery stores faster and at a lower cost. Additionally, if successful, the program could be expanded to include other cold-treated perishables from these and other countries. To read more, please [click here](#).

City Furniture is adding new jobs and an industry-leading "green" showroom to the resurgent Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. retail corridor with the opening of a 35,000-square-foot Ashley Furniture HomeStore at 2101 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. "With the rebound in housing sales and prices, plus some key changes we've introduced in recent months, our sales are growing at the fastest rate since 2005," said **City Furniture** President Keith Koenig. To read more, please [click here](#).

Florida Atlantic University's Broward campuses have undergone some recent changes; however, the academic programs located in Ft. Lauderdale continue to serve students and are poised for growth. The downtown Fort Lauderdale campus is part of an evolving, dynamic urban community that provides a laboratory for the professional degree program in architecture. The School of Architecture within the College for Design and Social Inquiry has been consolidated to newly renovated spaces in the FAU/Broward College Higher Education Complex on Las Olas Boulevard. To read more, please [click here](#).

GUNSTER, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, was recently recognized on a number of regional and national lists for its size as a statewide law firm. This placement continues the firm's momentum of growth and expansion across the state and further affirms its reputation as Florida's law firm for business in both regional and national markets. To read more, please [click here](#).

GUNSTER is also pleased to announce that James B. Davis, a shareholder in **GUNSTER's** Fort Lauderdale office and leader of the firm's tax practice, has joined the adjunct faculty at the University of Miami School of Law. To read more, please [click here](#).

Specialty finance company, **123 LumpSum**, a leading purchaser of secondary structured settlement transactions, recently announced that it has closed on the purchase of a new building in Fort Lauderdale. The company is currently located in Hallandale Beach, and plans to relocate by year end. The new building is located at 3625 West Broward Blvd. Financing for the commercial real estate transaction was provided by BB&T. To read more, please [click here](#).

Ken Morris, SIOR and Principal of **Morris Southeast Group**/CORFAC International announced that Vice President Koreena Rivers in his firm has represented a Sky Zone franchisee in securing a 27,312-square-foot industrial building lease located at 1834 SW 2nd Street in Pompano Beach. **Duke Realty Corp.** owns the property and holds the multi-year lease. To read more, please [click here](#).

Nipro Diagnostics, Inc., a leading manufacturer and marketer of blood glucose monitoring products and diabetes management supplies recently announced the acquisition of P.J. Noyes, a privately held New Hampshire-based manufacturer of OTC healthcare, personal care products, nutraceuticals, and dietary supplements. "This strategic acquisition expands Nipro Diagnostics' capabilities, adds expertise, pipeline of formulations and expands our USA-based manufacturing. Our leadership position in blood glucose monitoring is the foundation of our ecosystem, including sharps, nutraceuticals, personal care products and dietary supplements. We are committed to supporting the health and wellness needs of an ever-growing diabetes population with high-quality, low-cost products," said Scott Verner, President and CEO of **Nipro Diagnostics**. To read more, please [click here](#).

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) earned a perfect financial responsibility composite score by the U.S. Department of Education, confirming that NSU is "considered financially responsible." The recently released annual report is based on the 2011 fiscal year and evaluates all non-profit and for-profit institutions to ensure they are maintaining the financial standards necessary to participate in Title IV federal student aid programs. To read more, please [click here](#).

Cruise guests will have more options when sailing from **Port Everglades** in 2014 with more choices in summer sailings and new shorter itineraries. In addition, Princess Cruises' new Royal Princess will call Port Everglades her U.S. winter home when she arrives in late October 2013 after debuting in Europe. To read more, please [click here](#).

Port Everglades celebrated the first vessel call of the Grand Alliance's Gulf Atlantic Express (GAX) service with direct ocean shipping to Northern Europe from South Florida. Captain D.A. Sulin and his crew aboard Hapag Lloyd's Philadelphia Express arrived Saturday, August 24, on schedule and were greeted by officials from Port Everglades, Hapag Lloyd and Florida International Terminal (FIT). The GAX service is jointly operated by Hapag-Lloyd and its partners NYK Line and Orient Overseas Container Line.

This past spring the **The Research Park at Florida Atlantic University** expanded the Technology Business Incubator™ (TBI) a second time within the past year to 25,000 sq. ft. in order to accommodate a vast need for additional space for current client companies and to house new companies on a waiting list. The expansion is paying dividends. Several TBI startups have made incredible technological advances, secured significant monetary investments, and recruited prominent advisory board members. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Raquel Case, general manager of Rick Case Fiat in Davie, who has been honored with *Automotive News*' "40 Under 40" award. This award recognizes rising stars at auto dealerships across the country. Last year, Rick Case Fiat was the top-selling Fiat dealership in the eastern United States and number 4 in the nation, according to Chrysler Group. **Rick Case Automotive Group** is a member of the Alliance's CEO Council.

Spotlight on Alliance Members

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance welcomes the following new member organizations.

Leadership Council

The Galleria Mall, a **Jones Lang LaSalle** (JLL) property, is one of the largest upscale shopping malls in Broward County. This iconic property developed by the king of the modern shopping center – retail pioneer and former local resident Leonard Farber - is a premiere shopping and dining destination located near the Intracoastal Waterway on Sunrise Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale. The Galleria provides local and international visitors with world-class shopping like Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Dillard's and Apple and top-notch dining including The Capital Grille, Truluck's, Blue Martini and Seasons 52. **Mark Trouba** is Vice President and General Manager at The Galleria where he oversees all daily operational issues and a staff of 60. He's been with the mall for more than 20 years and has spent 36 years in the shopping center industry. **Melissa Milroy** serves as Director of Marketing and Business Development for The Galleria and has been with JLL for nearly 20 years. **John Lambert** oversees all operational functions for Jones Lang LaSalle's Florida Retail Market and is an expert in the fields of real estate leasing, management, development, and finance. The team is led by **Greg Maloney**, President and CEO of Jones Lang LaSalle Retail for the Americas. Greg is one of the nation's leading retail industry experts and is often quoted in business media including the Wall Street Journal. He divides his time between Atlanta and Fort Lauderdale and shops regularly at The Galleria.

[The Galleria Mall](#)
[Jones Lang LaSalle](#)



Mark Trouba

Melissa Milroy

John Lambert

Greg Maloney

Corporate Council

CBIZ – one of the nation's leading providers of business services – is a new member of the Alliance's Corporate Council. With offices in major metropolitan areas, CBIZ enables businesses to focus on critical matters by providing custom solutions to help better manage finances and employees. As Senior Managing Director, **Gerald Moench** leads the South Florida business unit of CBIZ, by working with department leaders and key members of management to achieve exceptional results in all operational and functional areas, including revenue growth and staff development. In his role as Director at CBIZ, **Ari Roloff** develops market-facing initiatives to build the CBIZ brand and provide opportunities for growth, for both the firm and its clients. Rounding out the CBIZ team is **Mike Gelin**, Vice President, CBIZ Benefit and Insurance Services. He is a certified employee benefits specialist and is responsible for business development and client management including strategic planning, financial monitoring, underwriting, market negotiations, compliance and benefits administration services.

[CBIZ](#)



Gerald Moench

Ari Roloff

Mike Gelin

Entrepreneur Council

The SCA Group, LLC is the premier solution for comprehensive board and management advisory services for a host of companies, ranging from small private companies to public billion dollar companies. **Dan Stansky** is a founding partner of the company and serves as a Director of the Turnaround Management Association's Florida chapter. Dan's 35-year career has included serving as CFO and COO to public, private, and emerging growth companies, spanning the management, distribution, and technology industries.

[The SCA Group](#)



The Habilitation Center, Inc. recently upgraded from Associate to full member status at the Entrepreneur Council. The Habilitation Center is a non-profit group based in Boca Raton that serves all of Broward and Palm Beach Counties. The Center's goal is to assist adults with special needs with the knowledge and skills needed to lead useful and productive lives with dignity, respect and independence. **Linda Cooke** serves as Director for The Habilitation Center, a role she has held for nearly 23 years, and her track record for successfully seeking out employment opportunities for the men and women the organization serves is unparalleled. **Walter McDonald**, who serves as the organization's Production Supervisor, a role he has held for nearly 14 years, will join Linda as a company representative to the Alliance.

[The Habilitation Center](#)



Linda Cooke

Walter McDonald

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

Alliance Entrepreneur Council Meeting (Members only)

Wednesday, September 11 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: FAU Davie Campus, 3200 College Avenue, Heritage Hall, Davie

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

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Members only)

Tuesday, September 17 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: DCOTA Office Center, 1855 Griffin Road, Dania Beach

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

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Members only)

Wednesday, September 18 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Broward College, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd., 12th Floor, 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, September 24 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Location: HEICO Corporation, 3000 Taft St., Hollywood

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

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Members only)

Thursday, October 10 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, 110 E. Broward Blvd., Suite 1990, Fort Lauderdale

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

Alliance Annual Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, October 17 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Signature Grand, 6900 West State Road 84, Davie

Presenting Sponsor: Signature Grand; Platinum sponsors of this year's event include Broward College, jetBlue, JM Family Enterprises, Inc., Lifestyle Media Group, South Florida Business Journal and Zimmerman. Gold Sponsors include AutoNation and FPL. Silver Sponsors include BB&T, Florida Blue, Keolis America, Nova Southeastern University and Starmark.

For more information and to register, please go to www.gfalliance.org/2013annual.

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

Enterprise Florida Events:

Cannes International Boat Show 2013

September 10-15, 2013

Location: Cannes, France

Event Type: International Trade and Investment
Industry Sector: Marine
Region: Europe and the Middle East

AFRICANDO 2013

October 2-4, 2013
Location: Miami, FL
Event Type: International Trade and Investment
Industry Sector: Information Technology
Region: Africa

Team Florida Mission to Dominican Republic

February 23-26, 2014
Location: Dominican Republic
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 2013 Export Readiness Seminar

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Broward College, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward County Office of Small Business & Economic Development: Listening to Your Business Workshop

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Hollywood Branch Library, 2600 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood
For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward County 2013 Export Readiness Seminar

Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Broward College, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please [click here](#).

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

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: I.T. Parker Community Center, 901 N.E. 3rd Street, Dania Beach
For more information, please [click here](#).

SFBJ Influential Business Women '13

Date: Friday, September 13, 2013
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Location: Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa, 3555 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood
For more information, please [click here](#).

BioFlorida Conference 2013

September 15-17, 2013
Location: Tampa Marriott Waterside, Tampa, FL
For more information, please [click here](#).

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

Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hagen Park Community Center, 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors

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

Business for the Arts: Arts Mean Business Breakfast

Date: Friday, September 20, 2013

Time: 8:00 - 9:45 a.m.

Location: Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale

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

Special Olympics Sponsor An Athlete Awards Dinner presented by 123 LumpSum

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: LaGorce Country Club, Miami

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

Urban League of Broward County: 2013 "Love Boat" Red Gala

Date: Saturday, September 21, 2013

Time: 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale

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

2013 International Trade Certificate Program

Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2013

Location: 111 E. Las Olas Blvd, Room 1010, Fort Lauderdale

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

Super-Pathways to Prosperity: Sea, Air and Rail, Moderated by Terry Stiles (Presented by NAIOP South Florida)

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Time: 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island, 1111 Parrot Jungle Trail, Miami

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

South Florida Gifted & Talented Symposium: Creativity Across the Spectrum

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2013

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Location: Signature Grand, 6900 State Road 84, Davie

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

Grand Opening of Lingua Center at Broward College featuring the Hispanic Heritage Art Opening

Date: Thursday, September 26, 2013

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Broward College, 111 E. Las Olas Blvd.

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

South Florida Manufacturing Association: 53rd Annual Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2013

Time: 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Coral Springs Marriott Hotel, Coral Springs

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

Affordable Care Act: Challenges and Opportunities

Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Lauderdale Coral Springs Marriott Hotel, Coral Springs

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

Broward College Presents the Fort Lauderdale Speaker Series

Series begins Wednesday, October 23 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW 5th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

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

Lifestyle Publications Leaders In Law Awards

Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nova Southeastern University Miniaci Theater, Davie

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

ITPalooza South Florida

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Nova Southeastern University, Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, 3301 College Avenue
Davie

For more information, please [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.

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).