

greater Fort Lauderdale Broward Economic Development alliance



**The Alliance E-Newsletter
December 29, 2009**

Top Stories

Alliance Announces Economic Gardening Program

The Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Economic Development Alliance (The Alliance) has announced the launch of its Economic Gardening program which is based on a new economic development strategy gaining popularity nationwide. The innovative entrepreneur-centered economic growth strategy is focused on an initiative created by the State of Florida which allocated \$10,000,000 in funding to assist statewide expansion of Second Stage Growth entrepreneurial companies. The state's program established the Florida Economic Gardening Institute (FEGI), funded by the Florida Legislature to cultivate growth companies. It is called GrowFL and is patterned after a proven program pioneered in Colorado. The Alliance is part of the GrowFL statewide partnership. GrowFL will deploy its team of analysts at no charge to provide qualified companies with technical assistance and access to a suite of information and decision-making tools.

To qualify and be considered as second-stage, businesses must have 10 to 50 employees and generate \$1 million to \$25 million in annual revenue. They must also have maintained their principal place of business in the state of Florida for at least the previous two years and also have increased both the number of full-time equivalent employees and gross revenue during three of the last five years.

"Second stage companies will be identified, and qualifying companies can receive loans and one-on-one technical assistance to provide growth acceleration through the State's pilot program," said Bob Swindell, interim president and CEO of The Alliance. "We expect business retention, expansion and job growth to be the outcomes of this program as we work to help companies in Broward County succeed and prosper."

The Alliance is coordinating Broward County's efforts with other local business development groups to identify candidate companies. Further information can be found regarding the program at <http://browardalliance.org/economicgardening> or by calling 954-524-3116. Additional information regarding the state program is available at www.GrowFL.com.

CEO Council Hosts Area Development Consultants Forum

The Alliance's CEO Council recently served as the city host sponsor for the national and international *Area Development Magazine* Consultants Forum which was held for two days at the Ritz Carlton on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Colin Brown, President & CEO of JM Family Enterprises, along with CEO Council Chairman Ray Ferrero and other CEO Council members

and Alliance leadership, hosted a brunch with *Area Development Magazine* senior executives, consultants and their guests on The Gallant Lady Mega Yacht. The feedback from the participants was outstanding as they commented about all the amenities Greater Fort Lauderdale has to offer companies considering a relocation or expansion.

Green Workforce Think Tank Announces New Project and Citi Grant

The Green Workforce Think Tank, a collaborative partnership comprised of Broward College, Broward College Foundation, Citi Foundation, Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Economic Development Alliance (The Alliance), WorkForce One and other local organizations and companies has announced a new Green Workforce Innovation Project for Broward County. The project was announced during a tree planting ceremony at Broward College in downtown Fort Lauderdale on December 11, 2009.

"The purpose of the Think Tank, which is part of The Alliance's Governor's Council, is to examine opportunities for workforce development in existing and emerging green sustainable technologies," said Bob Swindell, interim president and CEO of The Alliance. "The Think Tank is also working to determine assets in the community and the skills necessary for the development or enhanced training of workers in green collar jobs."

In addition to the planting of a native Florida Buttonwood tree, the ceremony included the presentation of a \$50,000 grant from Citi Foundation to the Broward College Foundation. Barbara Romani, Citi's director of community relations, presented the check to J. David Armstrong, Jr., president of Broward College, as she talked about Citi's commitment to energy saving programs and green jobs growth. "We are very pleased to present this check to Broward College Foundation for the purpose of developing a strategy that will nurture the development and growth of an Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy industry in Broward County," said Romani.

Alliance Publishes 2009-10 Who's Who in Economic Development

The 2009-10 *Who's Who in Economic Development*, an excellent resource touting the leaders and companies committed to the work of economic development in Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County, has recently been published thanks to a new partnership with Broward College and its Printing and Graphic Arts Services Department. Companies featured in the 2009-10 edition have recognized the importance of investing their time, talent and financial resources in building a stronger and more diverse economy for Broward County and South Florida. If you are a current member of The Alliance and have not yet received your complimentary copy of the 2009-10 *Who's Who* in the mail, please contact Joan K. Goodrich at 954-627-0127 to receive your copy today!

New Member Promotion in Full Swing!

Julie Berry, Stiles Corporation, is heading up a new Alliance member promotion that will culminate in January with a substantial ad in the South Florida Business Journal featuring our new members. Please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133, or at lizt@browardalliance.org with any new member prospect you can nominate. This will be excellent recognition for the new member companies who join us this month and will begin the momentum we need to reach our goal of 58 new members in 2010.

2010 Census Count Quickly Approaching

The 2010 Census is coming! U.S. Census forms will be mailed to every Broward County household in March 2010. The form takes only 10 minutes to complete and is completely confidential. Future community funding is based on census results. Your community is counting on you to be counted on Census day, April 1, 2010! Please help pass the word!

Education & Workforce Development

Five Broward County High Schools Named among Best in Nation

U.S. News & World Report has released its 2010 list of America's Best High Schools, and five Broward County schools (out of 21,786 schools analyzed) were awarded silver medals, representing the top 3% of high schools in the country. The schools are Atlantic Technical Center, Margate; Fort Lauderdale High School, Fort Lauderdale; Nova High School, Davie; Pompano Beach High School, Pompano Beach; and William T. McFatter Technical High School, Davie.

Broward County's James F. Notter Named Superintendent of the Year

Broward's Superintendent of Schools James F. Notter has been named recipient of The Consortium of Florida Education Foundations' Superintendent of the Year Award. The award is presented to individuals who have shown tremendous effort, dedication and enthusiasm in supporting the efforts of their district-wide education foundation.

Top Rankings

Broward Cities Ranked Among Best for Raising Children

Three Broward County cities were recognized by *Business Week* magazine as best places to raise children. The cities are Pembroke Pines, Tamarac and Sunrise. The results were based on an analysis of affordability, safety, and school test scores. The cities considered for the list had populations above 45,000 and median incomes between \$40,000 and \$125,000.

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

Alliance Welcomes New Members

Following are Broward County and South Florida companies, institutions and organizations who have been added to the "Who's Who in Economic Development" and joined the effort to lead Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County in building a stronger and more diverse economy:

Fleming Executive Group, Inc. (www.flemingxgroup.com) - Keith Fleming, President
Construction company specializing in new construction, remodeling and additions.

Gate Medicals – (www.gatemedicals.com) - Gary Plancher, Manager
Manufacturers and distributes orthopedic soft goods to hospitals and active lifestyle consumers.

KP Ventures LLC – All Seal Exteriors – (www.allsealonline.com) - KP" Khalid Pervaiz, CEO

Restoration, resurfacing and reconstruction of exteriors of buildings and floors including driveways, pool decks, catwalks, sidewalks, airport taxiways, hangars, restaurants, warehouses and strip centers.

Providian Construction Group - (www.providianconstruction.com) - Andrea Whilby, President

Licensed general contracting firm providing construction management and subcontracting services in the commercial construction arena.

The Raven Group, Inc. – (www.theravengroupinc.com) - Trudy Jean Evans, President, Co-Owner

Offers small and large companies strategic business consulting, customized training programs, meeting facilitation and executive coaching services.

Signs by Tomorrow – (www.signsbytomorrow.com/sunrise) - Susan Meister, Owner
Full service sign and graphics company offering a wide array of signage solutions including banners, building signs, dimensional letters and logos, vehicle wraps, custom floor signage, wall murals and more.

Offering the only non-stop service to Germany from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL), Condor Airlines will soon bring business and leisure travelers alike the opportunity to travel to Europe with a choice of three classes of service on B767 aircraft. Condor resumes Fort Lauderdale to Frankfurt, Germany, service with twice weekly flights on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning May 14, 2010.

FPL Group, Inc. was named Power Company of the Year at the Platts 2009 Global Energy Awards. The recognition honors FPL Group as the leading power company in the world for 2009. The award was presented at a ceremony in New York City attended by more than 500 energy executives from around the world.

Peak 10 Inc., a managed services company with world-class data centers, has announced its acquisition of **1Vault Networks**, a South Florida-based business continuity and data services provider. As part of the acquisition, Peak 10 will immediately make significant investments for data center infrastructure enhancements, the managed services portfolio expansions and adding technical expertise to the team. 1Vault will operate as Peak 10 South Florida. The acquisition of the 66,000 square foot facility expands Peak 10's Florida footprint, allowing more organizations to receive expanded, geographically-redundant solutions such as virtualization, disaster recovery and private cloud infrastructure.

Spherion Corporation has announced that Rebecca Callahan, president of the company's SourceRight Solutions division, and Jennifer Beck, vice president of recruitment process outsourcing (RPO), have been named to the 2010 "Superstars" list by *HRO Today*.

Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events

Enterprise Florida Events:

boot Düsseldorf Boat Show 2010

January 23-31, 2010
Düsseldorf, Germany
Event Type: International Trade and Investment
Industry Sector: Marine

AACCLA's "Outlook on the Americas 2010" Briefing

January 28, 2010
Miami
Event Type: International Trade and Investment

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 visit <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx>.

Smart Growth Partnership Presents "Public Health, Planning and Smart Growth"

January 15, 2010 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Marriott North, Fort Lauderdale
For more information, please go to www.smartgrowthpartnership.org.

Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation presents "Florida's Future" Forum

January 25, 2010 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Nova Southeastern University
Additional details will be forthcoming.

Urban Land Institute 2010 South Florida Economic & Development Outlook Program

February 9, 2010 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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

Alliance Calendar of Events

Entrepreneur Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, January 13th 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Kathleen Weekes at 954-627-0132 or at kweekes@browardalliance.org.

Leadership Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, January 19th 8:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at lizt@browardalliance.org

Corporate Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, January 20th 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

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

Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation only)

Thursday, January 21st 4:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Sherma Maycock at 954-627-0125 or at smaycock@browardalliance.org

Governor Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, January 26th 8:00 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at lizt@browardalliance.org

Calendar subject to change without notice. Please visit www.browardalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding The Alliance.

Follow The Alliance on these websites: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#)

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

greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward Economic Development Alliance

Broward County's Official Economic Development Partnership

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