



The Broward Alliance
Leading Broward County in Building a
Stronger and More Diverse Economy



The Broward Alliance E-Newsletter September 30, 2008

Top Stories

Broward Alliance Excellerate Broward Campaign Surpasses \$1 Million Mark

The Broward Alliance is pleased to announce that its Excellerate Broward campaign has surpassed the \$1 million mark in private sector funds raised to support the work of economic development in Broward County. Kathy Koch, chair of the board of The Broward Alliance and James P. Tarlton (JT), president and CEO of The Broward Alliance announced the new strategic three year economic development campaign in April. The purpose of Excellerate Broward is to emphasize corporate and regional headquarters attraction, grow existing businesses and promote Broward County as a world class location for business. "Most people from other areas think of Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County as a great tourism destination, and it is," said Koch. "Excellerate Broward is extremely important because we are letting companies know we are also a world class business location as well." The goal of the campaign is \$1,800,000 in private sector funding. To date, more than \$1,200,000 has been raised.

Forty-five companies and organizations have now committed to the campaign including 1 Vault Networks; Ambit Advertising and Public Relations; Amera Corporation; AutoNation; Balfour Beatty Construction; BankAtlantic; Bank of America; Broward College; City Furniture; Davie Economic Development Council; Embassy Suites; Florida Atlantic University; Florida Handling Systems; Florida Power & Light; Florida Shores Bank; Greenfield World Trade; HEICO Corporation; Huizenga Holdings, Inc.; il Lugano; J.D. Ruffin Associates, Inc.; JM Family Enterprises; Kaplan Higher Education; KPMG; Memorial Healthcare Systems; Merrill Lynch; Moss/Miller Joint Venture; National City Bank; Northern Trust; Nova Southeastern University; Republic Services, Inc.; Rick Case Enterprises, Inc.; S. Mark Graphics Florida, Inc.; Spherion; Starmark International; Steel Fabricators; Stiles Corporation; Suez Energy; Sun-Sentinel; SunTrust Banks; U.S. Capital Holdings-321 North; Video Dynamics; Waste Management; WLD Enterprises and Workforce One.

"Supporting The Broward Alliance to help create jobs and strengthen and grow our economy is one of the best investments we can make in the community," said Chuck Pisciotta, Director for KPMG and a member of The Broward Alliance's Governor's Council. "It's an important, tangible way for any company to make a difference in the lives of Broward County residents now and for years to come."

Excellerate Broward is utilizing a three-pronged approach to economic development. One goal of the campaign is to focus on innovative business development programs, including an aggressive CEO-led headquarters attraction initiative and a "grow our own" program to enhance and expand Broward's established companies and new businesses. The second goal is to promote a new world class brand for Broward County regionally, nationally and internationally to showcase Broward County as a premier business location. The third goal involves expanding private sector leadership in economic development in Broward County.

"We are two-thirds of the way to our goal of raising \$1,800,000 in private sector support. These funds, in addition to the \$1 million provided by Broward County will help us compete with other well-financed regions who are vying for the same knowledge-based jobs of the future we are working to attract. We thank those companies who have stepped forward to

lead this effort and invite others to join us," added Koch. For more information about Excellerate Broward, contact Joan Goodrich, Executive Vice President of The Broward Alliance at 954-627-0127.

Broward Alliance Presents Economic Development Leadership Awards

The Broward Alliance presented its annual economic development leadership awards to eight local community leaders at its Quarterly Meeting on September 4, 2008. The following individuals were recognized for outstanding contributions to the work of economic development by Broward Alliance Chair Kathy Koch and Broward Alliance President and CEO James P. Tarlton.

The categories and honorees were:

VisionBROWARD Collaboration - Mary Becht, Broward County Cultural Division
Education/Workforce Development - Margarita Castellón, AT&T
Partner Relations - Don Giancoli, City of Lauderhill
Creative Economy and Film - Mike Greene, Video Dynamics
Investor Relations - Anthony Jackson, The Marome Agency
Business Development - Mike Moore, MWM Solutions for Business
International - Fred Rogacki, International Warehouse Services
Minority Business Development - Alyce Zahniser, James A. Cummings, Inc.

George Rahael, founder of Amera Companies, was also recognized as the Florida Economic Development Council's (FEDC) District 9 Volunteer of the Year. The award was presented by Deborah Wilkinson, Global Business Development Manager for the Broward County Office of Economic Development and a Vice Chairman of FEDC.

Additionally, South Florida Maroone, a part of AutoNation, was named the business leadership award recipient of The Broward Alliance's "Educational Excellence Builds Business" campaign. This award recognizes those companies that invest in supplemental educational programs to improve education in Broward County.

Mark Templeton, President and CEO of Citrix Systems, Inc. was the keynote speaker at the event.



Pictured (L-R) at The Broward Alliance Quarterly Luncheon are the Honorable Ken Keechl, Broward County Commissioner; Kathy Koch, FY 2008 Chairman of The Broward Alliance and President of Ambit Advertising and Public Relations; Mark Templeton, President and CEO, Citrix Systems, Inc.; and James Tarlton (JT), President and CEO of The Broward Alliance. Mr. Tarlton is presenting Mr. Templeton with a commemorative photo of the Fort Lauderdale skyline.



Pictured with James Tarlton (JT), President and CEO of The Broward Alliance (far left) and Kathy Koch, FY 2008 Chairman of The Broward Alliance and President of Ambit Advertising and Public Relations (far right) are (L-R) the recipients of The Broward Alliance Economic Development Leadership Awards: Mike Greene, Video Dynamics; Anthony Jackson, The Marome Agency; Fred Rogacki, International Warehouse Services; Margarita Castellon, AT&T; Don Giancoli, City of Lauderhill; and Alyce Zahniser, James A. Cummings Construction.



George Rahael, Founder of The Amera Corporation, receives the Florida Economic Development Council District 9 Volunteer of the Year Award from Deborah Wilkinson, Global Business Development Manager for the Broward County Office of Economic Development.



Mike Maroone, President and COO of AutoNation, is shown receiving The Broward Alliance's Educational Excellence Builds Business Award from Ana Zeinieh, Director of Workforce Development for WorkForce One and The Broward Alliance.



Pictured with Kathy Koch, FY 2008 Chairman of The Broward Alliance and President of Ambit Advertising and Public Relations (far left) and James Tarlton (JT), President and CEO of The Broward Alliance (far right) are (L-R) the FY 2008 Committee Chairs of The Broward Alliance: Rosana Santos, Big Chef; Marianne Winfield, Brickell Bay Realty Group; Mark Budwig, S. Mark Graphics; Christopher Burgio, Seitlin Insurance; Peter Quinter, Becker & Poliakoff; Lynn Goldman, McFatter Technical Center; Mike Greene, Video Dynamics; and Ben Wesley, Florida Power and Light.

Site Selection Magazine Highlights Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County

Recently, Florida has become a convenient (and photogenic) poster child for America's real estate market crash. However, this assessment is far removed from Florida's contemporary economic reality - that of an increasingly diversified, three-quarter-trillion dollar economy relying on multiple engines of growth. To read more of this article by Enterprise Florida CEO John Adams, Jr. and to see how Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County was highlighted in *Site Selection* magazine, one of the leading national/international corporate real estate

strategy and area economic development publications, please visit www.browardalliance.org and see "Press Releases."

National Check Trust Expands In Miramar Park Of Commerce

National Check Trust, Inc. (NCT), a national check guarantee company, has renewed its lease and expanded in the Miramar Park of Commerce. A Park tenant since 2002, National Check Trust now occupies 21,366 square feet in MPC-5 at 3200 Executive Way and MPC-15 at 2811 Corporate Way. With more than 150 employees, National Check Trust has both its headquarters office, national call center and a sister company NCT Collection Services, Inc. located in the Park.

National Check Trust takes the risk out of accepting checks for products or services offering bad check protection primarily designed to benefit new car dealers, equipment rental, building supply, furniture businesses, and others by making it easy and safe to accept checks from their customers. Checks are approved at the point-of-sale in seconds. Some of NCT's clients are AutoNation, Penske Automotive Group, ABC Supply, Hertz Equipment Rental, United Rental and Sunbelt Rentals, among others.

"We chose to renew our lease and expand our location with Miramar Park of Commerce because of its convenience and retail growth for our employees, and close proximity to two major airports," said Tom Lonardo, executive vice president and CFO. "Miramar is an ever-changing, ever-growing area and ideally situated for our business. I also feel our relationship with the Park's management and ownership team is one that could not be duplicated."

Mike Sigerman with Lucky Commercial Realty brokered the lease transaction. Maridee Bell, Vice President of Sunbeam Properties, developer of Miramar Park of Commerce, represented the Park.

IDI Closes 62,000 Square Foot Lease with ZF Marine

IDI, a full-service industrial real estate company, has closed a 10-year, 62,552 square foot lease at Miramar Centre Business Park with ZF Marine LLC. A subsidiary of the Italy-based ZF Marine Group, ZF Marine LLC will establish its North American headquarters in the newly built Miramar Centre Building C. ZF Marine LLC will move from its existing headquarters in Hollywood. Michael Brown of Retail Development Properties represented ZF Marine LLC in the deal, and Larry Dinner represented IDI. Located at 15351 SW 29th St. in Miramar, the 125,104 square foot Miramar Centre Building C is off Miramar Parkway at the intersection of I-75.

Six Broward Companies on 27th Annual List of America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies - The Inc. 500

Inc. magazine has announced its 27th annual Inc. 500 ranking of the fastest-growing private companies in the country, and six Broward-based companies are on the list. The Broward companies recognized this year and the city in which they are located are: Ranon Construction, Deerfield Beach; MotionPoint, Coconut Creek; ReStockIt.com, Hollywood; Intellego, Davie; Ogando Associates, Fort Lauderdale; and Liberty Power, Fort Lauderdale. Companies such as Zappos, Intuit, GoDaddy, Under Armour, Jamba Juice, American Apparel, Oracle and hundreds of other powerhouses gained early exposure as members of the Inc. 500.

Complete results of the Inc. 500, including company profiles and a list of the fastest-growing companies that can be sorted by industry and region can be found at www.inc500.com.

Miramar Company Inks Deal to Develop Drugs to Treat HIV

Massachusetts General Hospital has licensed technology that will help treat HIV and hepatitis C to Altor BioScience Corp., a privately held company in Miramar. The company said it has a deal with the hospital for exclusive, global rights to develop the technology, known as T-cell

receptors. According to an article in the *South Florida Business Journal*, financial terms were not disclosed but the deal is the culmination of a collaboration that began in 2004 between the company, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Partners AIDS Research Center at Massachusetts General. Market potential for new HIV or hepatitis C treatments is enormous with more than 2 million people living with HIV in North America and Europe alone, and 40,000 new infections occurring annually in the U.S. Altor said there is a need for new drugs because patients with HIV and AIDS continue to develop drug resistance despite the availability of more than 40 approved antiretroviral drugs.

Congresswoman is Keynote Speaker at General Dynamics C4 Systems Dedication Ceremony

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz helped to dedicate the new General Dynamics C4 Systems Engineering Center in Sunrise at a special ceremony on August 22nd. More than 100 employees and community leaders were in attendance at the event. The company opened the center in June. The office expands the company's engineering and technology support of U.S. Department of Defense and government agency customers.

Chris Marzilli, president of General Dynamics C4 Systems, said, "General Dynamics is a strong company with opportunities in a variety of professions, and the caliber of the engineering and technology workforce in Broward County is excellent. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to expand our operations here." The company is expected to have approximately 100 employees at the Engineering Center by the end of 2008. In her comments during the ceremony, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz congratulated C4 Systems for recognizing the outstanding talent pool in South Florida and for their decision to locate here.



Pictured (L-R) cutting the ribbon at General Dynamics dedication ceremony are John Martin, Vice President of the Communication Networks Division of C4 Systems; Chris Marzilli, C4 Systems' President; Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz; and Sunrise site manager Richard Wendelken.

Education & Workforce Development

172 Broward County Public Schools Receive Over \$15 Million In Funding For Outstanding Academic Performance

One hundred and seventy-two Broward County Public Schools received a combined \$15,578,497 in funding as part of the state's School Recognition Program. The announcement was made by Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith and Governor Charlie Crist for the schools' academic achievement during the last school year. Broward's total award marks an increase of 46 schools and approximately \$3 million over the District's 2006/07 totals (126 schools and \$12,608,296).

Broward's \$15,578,497 recognition funding total represents the second-largest single District award in the state. Over \$147.1 million was awarded to 1,959 Florida schools in recognition

of their academic achievement and improvement during the school year. Schools that earned an "A" grade or improved at least one grade from the previous year were awarded \$85 per student.

Since the program began in 1999, Florida has awarded more than \$1.129 billion in school recognition funding.

Lists of all districts and/or schools in Florida receiving recognition funding can be found at (<http://www.fldoe.org/evaluation/schrmmain.asp>).

Broward County Public Schools Awarded Over \$7.5 Million In Competitive Grant Awards

Broward County Public Schools has been awarded a combined \$7.5 million in state and national competitive grant funding recently. The funds will support four programs - two 21st Century Community Learning Center projects, a New Early Reading First Program and a High School Success Special Grants Program.

The 21st CCLC Program funds extended learning time for students and their families to learn new knowledge and skills outside of the regular school day. Oriole Elementary School, Crystal Lake Middle School, New River Middle School and Olsen Middle School will share the funding for the duration of the five-year program. Each school has a community partner to assist with implementation of the program. Primary partners include the YMCA of Broward County, After Schools Programs, Inc. and Hispanic Unity of Florida.

With these two new grant awards, the District now operates the 21st CCLC Program at twenty-one schools. This grant is operated by the District's Career, Technical and Adult/Community Education Department.

The District was awarded one of 31 New Early Reading First Grant Awards. Broward County Public Schools is the only public school district in Florida to be selected by the U.S. Department of Education to receive this funding for the 2008/09 school year.

The District's project, Building Language and Literacy, will operate at Bethune Elementary School, Charles Drew Family Resource Center and three private child-care centers and be managed by the District's School Readiness Department. It will provide high-quality, ongoing classroom-focused professional development, mentoring and continued support designed to increase preschool teachers' knowledge and effectiveness in implementing research-based, early literacy programs.

The District received a grant from the AT&T Foundation, through its High School Success Special Grants Program, to implement the Success Highways Dropout Prevention Program.

The Office of Alternative Education/Dropout Prevention will manage the program, which will serve the District's three Alternative Academic Schools - Whiddon-Rogers, Dave Thomas and Pine Ridge. Additionally, the project will expand the Success Highways program, which has been operating at Boyd Anderson High School, to include the high school's feeder middle schools - Lauderdale Lakes Middle, Lauderhill Middle and Arthur R. Ashe, Jr. Middle.

The AT&T Foundation launched this new national grant program last April, focusing on high school success for at-risk students.

Broward received the largest award possible under this competition and was one of only two Florida school districts to receive the award.

70 Broward Public Schools Earn Five Star School Award from Florida Department of Education

The Florida Department of Education recently designated 70 Broward County schools as

Five Star School Award recipients for 2007/2008. These schools are among 905 statewide that will share Florida's most prestigious award for community involvement.

To meet the award's rigorous demands, each school must document 100% fulfillment of 29 criteria that requires the full engagement of business partners, volunteers, students, families and the School Advisory Council in the educational process. In addition, qualifying schools must have a school grade of "C" or above and have received the Department of Education's Golden School Award for excellence in school volunteer programs.

Broward Alliance Investor News and Announcements

Broward County Kicking Off Census 2010 Complete Count Committee

Broward County will continue its official efforts to ensure that every Broward County resident is counted during the upcoming 2010 Census. On August 11th, Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman chaired the kickoff meeting for the Census 2010 Complete Count Committee. The Committee will be comprised of representatives from local governments, businesses, human service organizations, media outlets, homeowners and community associations, religious institutions, chambers of commerce and other groups that serve the residents of Broward County.

Attendees at the meeting were given an overview of Broward County's plans for the upcoming Census and were given the opportunity to sign up for subcommittees that will address certain specific issues of concern for the upcoming count. The subcommittees are Countywide Coordination, Cultural/Ethnic, Religious Institutions, Promotions, Hard-to-Enumerate, Recruitment, Sponsorship, and Unincorporated Areas. Commissioner Lieberman stated that since much federal and state funding comes from census counts, it will be very important to make sure every Broward resident is counted.

For more information on how you can become involved with the Census 2010 Complete Count Committee, please contact Scott Medvin at 954-357-8550 or email census2010@broward.org. You can also visit www.broward.org/census2010.

Business Woman and Author Keynote Speaker at Tampa Bay Area MEDWeek Gala

Gail Birks, President/CEO of CMA Enterprise Incorporated was the keynote speaker for this year's MedWeek Gala, which ran from September 16-19 in Tampa.

Ms. Birks, a National Speaker and Corporate Consultant/Trainer shared insights surrounding the MEDWeek theme of "Strategic Alliances in a Global Economy" with gala attendees, as well as some practical tips from her book, "When Dreamers Do it... The Profits Come," which is in circulation in English and Spanish.

Her 18 year old firm serves its clients in the areas of Organization Development, Training and Curriculum Development, Supplier Diversity, Dispute Resolution Services and recently, Six Sigma and Lean Six Sigma consulting and training services. In a recent interview, she stated that, "working in this global economy is no longer an option to survive, it is a requirement."

Earlier in the day, Ms. Birks and her business partner, International Trainer Juan Casimiro presented at the Polk County Diversity Conference in Lakeland Florida. The workshop they facilitated at that event was entitled "A Celebration of Similarities: A Community of One."

To learn more about CMA Enterprise Incorporated, visit www.cma-ent.com or call Gail Birks, President/CEO at 954-476-3525/786-423-0155.

Riverbend Moves for Approval for Two Additional Class A Office Buildings

With the completion of the first 67,000 square foot Class A office building at the Riverbend

Transit Oriented Development (TOD), developer Amera-Barron has announced it is finalizing approvals for two additional four-story, Class A office buildings and an adjacent parking garage.

The buildings are part of the first stage of Riverbend, Broward County's first new office submarket in 20 years and the initial phase of a dynamic mixed-use destination and regional transit hub at the western edge of downtown Fort Lauderdale. Riverbend is designed to offer workers, shoppers and residents the benefits of a complete environment without dependence on the automobile.

Overall, the 6 million square-foot mixed-use Riverbend community will encompass nearly 100 acres, spanning both western quadrants of the Interstate 95/Broward Boulevard interchange. The north side will accommodate a corporate park campus, a multi-modal transit hub and twin office towers. On the south side, Riverbend Village will bring several residential neighborhoods, a super regional multi-level retail center and corporate offices to the area.

The project's multi-modal transit hub is designed to streamline travel throughout Broward County's central corridor. With I-95 ramp infrastructure and a Tri-Rail station in place, a proposed east-west light rail connector route on the boards, and its own internal trolley system, Riverbend is designed to be the most accessible destination in the region for employees and visitors.

The two new buildings will each have 120,000 square feet of space, including 15,000 square feet of ground floor retail and restaurant space. The 5-story parking garage will accommodate 900 vehicles. Located along a redundant FPL power loop served by two substations, Riverbend provides unmatched infrastructure to keep businesses up and running. The buildings also will feature fiber optics and redundant power back up, full impact/low E window systems, and VAV HVAC systems. Construction start is projected for second quarter 2009.

In all, Riverbend's first phase, on 18 acres, will include six, four-story Class A office buildings with a total of 700,000 square feet and complementary amenities. The buildings are sited around a 20-plus acre lake and along a spine road. Future phases will include additional office buildings and amenities, with sites for restaurants, banks and business services. An extensive streetscape along Broward Boulevard with more than 240 live oak trees and landscaped berms already has been installed. The main entrance will be flanked by lighted waterfall-lined monuments.

"We are in active negotiations with tenants for the remaining space in the first building, and with the approvals, are eager to begin the next phase," said Charles Ladd, who with George Rahael, is a principal of the development company. "Riverbend is a rarity in the regional market, with the ability to provide large contiguous spaces, true Class A space, the caliber traditionally reserved for downtown cores, and plenty of room for growth. It is smart growth in action."

Ladd and Rahael said companies are responding to Riverbend's master plan, which will create a transit-oriented new urban community at the nexus of the I-95/595 infrastructure. At completion, Riverbend is projected to generate over \$20 million in annual tax revenues and accommodate employers generating nearly 8,000 jobs.

The developers engaged a nationally regarded design team including Chicago-based architects Solomon Cordwell Buenz & Associates Inc. General contractor is J. Raymond & Associates of Orlando, Florida.

Principals Ladd and Rahael are long-time partners in market-shaping, top quality South Florida projects under the Amera-Barron companies. The team is also master developer for Downtown Coral Springs, which is redeveloping all four quadrants of the Sample Road/University Drive intersection. The first phase, One Charter Place, a 101,000 square foot Class A office, financial and retail center is now open. Other projects include The Walk on University, a 240,000 square foot mixed-use center that transformed two city blocks of

aging office and retail buildings and vacant land into a vibrant center for the City of Coral Springs, and Victoria Park Shoppes, which brought a new level of quality retail to that Fort Lauderdale neighborhood.

For more information, contact Amera-Barron Leasing, 954-340-6000.

Stiles Constructing The Residences at the Fountains, a Key Step Forward for Plantation's Midtown District

Stiles Construction Co. has launched construction for The Residences at the Fountains, an upscale rental community being developed by American Land Ventures, LLC as a key step in revitalizing Plantation's mixed-use Midtown District. With 251 luxury apartment homes and townhomes in 10- and 11-story towers, The Residences at the Fountains is the first of two development phases planned at the site along SW 78 Street, adjacent to the Fountains Shoppes of Distinction.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome The Residences at the Fountains to Plantation," said the city's Mayor Rae Carole Armstrong, who spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony. "Plantation Midtown's master plan and vision support mixed-use development and the opportunities it brings to its residents - a beautiful apartment home within walking distance of the exciting shopping and dining options located within the Fountains Shoppes of Distinction."

Designed to attract residents who appreciate a sophisticated in-city lifestyle, The Residences at the Fountains set a new standard for luxury apartments in Plantation, according to developer Granvil Tracy, president, American Land Ventures. "From a magnificent lobby to advanced technology and security features, this will be an exceptional rental community in every way," Tracy said. "Considering the building's high-level finishes, energy-efficient systems and structural quality, engaging Stiles Construction was a natural decision."

Timothy Moore, president of Stiles Construction Co., said completion is expected in fall 2010.

CB Richard Ellis Named Exclusive Agent for Hallandale Beach Site

CB Richard Ellis, the world's leading commercial real estate services provider, was recently named the exclusive sales agent for a mixed-use development site located at 2600 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd. in Hallandale Beach, Fla.

Chris Wood, vice president, and Dick Levinson, vice president, have been retained to exclusively represent the owner of the property, RPC Holdings/Paramount Worldwide, based in Boca Raton, Fla.

"This is a unique Intracoastal development site offering both intracoastal and ocean views," Mr. Wood said. "Located within the city's planned redevelopment overlay district, the site offers a mixed-use development opportunity suitable for hotel and timeshare."

For more information about Chris Wood, please visit: www.cbre.com/christopher.wood. For more information about Dick Levinson, please visit: www.cbre.com/richard.levinson.

Gerdau Ameristeel Selects Spherion as Recruitment Process Outsourcing Partner

Fort Lauderdale-based Spherion Corporation has announced its recruitment process outsourcing (RPO) services division has signed a one-year contract agreement with Gerdau Ameristeel, leading mini-mill steel producer and second largest recycler in North America, to provide full end-to-end RPO services. The engagement calls for Spherion to support 400 hires for both exempt and non-exempt positions across all of Gerdau Ameristeel's locations in the U.S. Spherion RPO will concentrate its recruiting efforts in the company's corporate group and key lines of business, including steel mills, rail products and recycling.

The recruitment teams will be based at Spherion's main recruiting centers in the U.S. As part of the contract, Spherion RPO will focus on reducing the time-to-fill across all positions and improving candidate and hiring manager satisfaction.

"As the talent crunch remains a top concern for many companies, our RPO division is prepared to work with our clients to enhance their recruitment processes," said Roy Krause, president and chief executive officer of Spherion Corporation. "Gerdau Ameristeel is at the forefront of its industry, and we look forward to supporting the company's growth by serving as a strategic hiring partner."

To learn more about Spherion's RPO services, visit <http://www.spherionrpo.com/>.

Broward Health Medical Director of Cancer Services Receives Award

Nicholas Tranakas, M.D., medical director of Cancer Services for Broward Health, received the Cancer Liaison Physician Outstanding Performance Award for Broward General Medical Center (BGMC) from the Commission on Cancer (CoC). Tranakas, one of 55 physicians recognized nationwide, received the award on behalf of Frederick L. Greene, Chair of the Commission on Cancer.

Tranakas was selected for demonstrating outstanding leadership and guidance as a physician campaigner for the Comprehensive Cancer Center at BGMC. He also exhibited qualities that the CoC's Approvals Program considers to be critical to the facilities' success and for providing superior cancer care.

One of the 10 largest public health systems in the nation, Broward Health includes Broward General Medical Center, North Broward Medical Center, Imperial Point Medical Center, Coral Springs Medical Center, Chris Evert Children's Hospital, Broward Health Weston and more than 30 facilities of the Community Health Services and Broward Health Physician Group. For more information visit www.browardhealth.org.

Ultimate Software Safeguards Corporate Systems through Colocation Agreement with 1Vault Networks

Ultimate Software, a leading provider of end-to-end strategic human resources, payroll, and talent management solutions, has selected the SAS 70 certified 1Vault Networks for fully secured data backup and server colocation for some of the company's corporate applications and backup systems. Ultimate Software, which serves over 1,600 customers representing more than three million employees, signed a multi-year agreement for customized internet connectivity and colocation backup at 1Vault's state-of-the-art, category 5 hurricane-rated data colocation center in Fort Lauderdale.

Broward County Office of Economic Development Announcements Made

Congratulations to Samantha Zerbe, who has been promoted from International Trade Analyst to Global Business Development Specialist at the Broward County Office of Economic Development (OED). She also serves on the Executive Board of the Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT) and as Communications Director for the Broward County British American Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Deborah Wilkinson, Global Business Development Manager for OED has been elected Vice Chair of Finance and Budget for the Florida Economic Development Council.

RSM McGladrey Announces Firm's Location Leader

Mike Balter, Managing Director and Partner of RSM McGladrey and McGladrey & Pullen respectively, has been named as the firm's Location Leader for Fort Lauderdale. In this capacity, Balter will oversee Fort Lauderdale operations for the nation's fifth largest provider of accounting, tax and business consulting services.

Balter currently oversees the firm's Construction Practice for Florida. He has been with the firm for more than fifteen years and provides clients with general business and strategic planning advice, guidance on financial accounting and reporting matters, product line profitability analysis and other related services. Balter is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants (FICPA), Construction Association of South Florida, and Associated Builders and Contractors. He serves as Director and Past President of the Construction Financial Management Association, Financial Counsel to the South Florida Chapter of the Association of General Contractors, and Chairman for the FICPA Construction Conference Committee. He has been prominently featured in a number of industry publications, including the Construction Focus, Construction Ink and Building Florida. He has authored the financial management section of the Contractors Manual for the Associated Builders and Contractors organization.

Tony and Woodie Lesesne and George Rahael Honored

Tony and Woodie Lesesne, owners of Lesesne Media Group, have been named recipients of this year's Urban League of Broward County Minority Entrepreneur Award. The award was presented at the Urban League's 22nd annual Equal Opportunity Day "Red Gala." Tony and Woodie publish *In Focus Magazine*, a publication they have expanded into a multi-media conglomerate that includes entertainment, film, and music productions. George Rahael, founder of Amera Corporation, also received the Urban League's Community Builder Award. Congratulations Tony, Woodie and George!

Becker & Poliakoff Attorney Guest Lecturer

Peter Quinter, Shareholder in Charge of the Customs and International Trade Department, Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., Fort Lauderdale, was a guest lecturer at the American Conference Institute's Fourth Advanced Forum on Import Compliance and FDA Compliance Workshop on September 24, 2008, in Washington, D.C.

Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber Hosting Politics in the Park

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce is hosting the First Annual Politics in the Park at Huizenga Plaza this Thursday, October 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event will feature complimentary paella, sangria, beer, soft drinks and a live band. The business community is invited to attend at no charge. To RSVP or for more information please contact Cristina@ftlchamber.com or 954-462-6000 ext. 8792.

Other Briefs/News

China Direct Forms New Joint Venture to Expand Basic Materials Segment

Deerfield Beach-based China Direct, Inc., a U.S. company that owns controlling stakes in a diversified portfolio of Chinese entities and assists Chinese businesses in accessing the U.S. capital markets, has announced that its previously disclosed joint venture, CDI (Beijing) International Trading Co., Ltd., ("CDI Beijing") was granted a business license by the Chinese government to engage in the distribution of steel and lumber products in China. Under the terms of the previously disclosed joint venture agreement, CDI Shanghai Management Co., Ltd. ("CDI Shanghai"), a wholly owned subsidiary of China Direct, will invest approximately \$3.73 million in CDI Beijing to obtain a 51% interest in the joint venture. CDI Shanghai made its initial investment of \$750,000 and will contribute the remaining \$2.98 million to CDI Beijing on or before June 30, 2009. CDI Beijing will distribute to end users in China and abroad a variety of basic material products including steel and wood for various suppliers. For more information about China Direct, please visit <http://www.chinadirectinc.com>.

Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events

ITFlorida Awards Gala and Tech Forum

October 6, 2008

Walt Disney World Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista

Senator Jeff Atwater, President-Designate of the Florida Senate, will provide a keynote address at the ITFlorida Awards Gala and Tech Forum. Joining Atwater during the event will be leaders of the Florida Legislature, key technology leaders, and several hundred IT executives and professionals. ITFlorida's Annual Awards Gala and Tech Forum provides the state's leading IT professionals with an opportunity to recognize the achievements of their peers, discuss current IT-related trends and issues, and pursue reports on the latest IT developments around the state.

To learn more, register, or nominate a company or individual for the IT Florida Awards, please visit www.itflorida.com.

BioFlorida's 11th Annual Conference

October 19-21, 2008
Amelia Island, FL

BioFlorida's Annual Conference is the state's largest gathering of life science professionals. Last year's event, held in Weston, celebrated 10 years of bioscience growth in Florida and had record attendance and support. Year after year, leaders of Florida's biotech, pharma and medical device communities gather at this event with increasing audiences from around the world. Attendance is expected to include more than 500 business and scientific leaders from all sectors of the industry. This year's theme, The Life Cycle of Life Sciences, will showcase Florida's life science technologies and focus on the various stages of product development with three informative tracks: Discovery, Development & Commercialization. Topics related to the industry including partnering, clinical trials, drug discovery and today's political environment will be discussed in these sessions. For more information, please visit www.bioflorida.com.

32nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast U.S./Japan & Japan-U.S. Southeast Association

October 19-21, 2008
Raleigh, NC

For more information, please visit www.fl-seusjapan.org.

Enterprise Florida (EFI) Export Sales Mission to Peru

October 19-22, 2008

EFI Export Missions are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information, please visit <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx>.

International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Annual Conference

October 19-22, 2008
Atlanta, GA

For more information, please visit <http://www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference/index.html>

Florida Redevelopment Association 2008 Annual Conference

October 22-24, 2008
Hyatt Regency Downtown Tampa

The Florida Redevelopment Association presents "Redevelopment and The Creative Economy." For more information, please visit www.redevelopment.net.

2008 Urban Land Institute (ULI) Fall Meeting and Urban Land Expo

October 27-30, 2008

Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach

The Broward Alliance will be working with local municipalities, companies and developers to showcase Broward County at the 2008 Urban Land Institute (ULI) Fall Meeting and Urban Land Expo. The Expo is the world's leading conference and exposition for real estate developers, investors, and land use professionals. The event is expected to draw more than 8,000 attendees from around the world. Those who have an interest in partnering on the Pavilion with The Broward Alliance are asked to contact Peter Tokar at ptokar@browardalliance.org or 954-627-0124.

CoreNet Global Summit

November 9-11, 2008

Orlando, FL

For more information, please visit

http://www2.corenetglobal.org/summits_events/orlando_2008/index.vsp

Enterprise Florida (EFI) MEDICA 2008 Mission

November 19-22, 2008

Dusseldorf, Germany

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, please visit <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx?id=6312>

Broward Alliance Calendar of Events

Education/Workforce Development Committee

Thursday, October 9th, 8:00 a.m.

Location: The Broward Alliance

For more information, please contact Ana Zeinieh at 954-524-3114 or at azeinieh@browardalliance.org.

Minority Business Development Committee

Wednesday, October 15th, 4:00 p.m.

Location: The Broward Alliance

For more information, please contact Vielka Quintero at 954-524-3119 or at vquintero@browardalliance.org.

International Committee

Thursday, October 16th, 8:00 a.m.

Location: The Broward Alliance

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

Business Development Committee

Thursday, October 23rd, 8:00 a.m.

Location: The Broward Alliance

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