



**The Alliance E-Newsletter
September 30, 2010**

Top Stories

Register Now! Alliance Annual Meeting set for October 14

Richard Fain, Chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., will be the keynote speaker at the Alliance's Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 14, 2010. The theme of this year's meeting will be "What's the Buzz about Broward?" This year's annual meeting is being transformed into an exciting evening event that will bring together hundreds of Broward County and South Florida business, community and governmental leaders. The meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six Resort & Spa at 2301 S.E. 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale. It will begin with registration, a silent auction and reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by the dinner and program beginning at 7:30 p.m. During this annual meeting, we will be unveiling our new look and brand and providing an update on progress being made in the local economy, particularly in the areas of job creation and retention. And we have other surprises and announcements in store! Please go to www.gfalliance.org/annualmeeting to register.

Alliance Announces the Addition of 640 New Jobs

The Alliance has assisted three companies who have announced plans to expand in Greater Fort Lauderdale, adding a total of 640 jobs. Mako Surgical, a medical device company that markets both a robotic arm interactive orthopedic surgical platform and implants for minimally invasive orthopedic knee procedures will be adding 90 jobs and making a \$1.9 million capital investment. The company is located in the Town of Davie. Off-Grid Solar, a solar panel manufacturer, has announced plans to add 150 jobs and make \$11.75 million in capital investments in Fort Lauderdale. BRS Aerospace, which designs, manufactures and distributes whole-aircraft emergency parachute systems for general aviation and recreational aircraft, will be adding 400 jobs and making a \$500,000 capital investment in Pompano Beach. "We are very pleased to announce these company expansions and see it as one of the indicators of the beginning of a turnaround in our economy," said Bob Swindell, President and CEO of the Alliance.

Alliance Launches Innovative New Online Mapping Tool to Attract Business to Greater Fort Lauderdale

Beginning October 1st, the Alliance speeds up and simplifies the process of attracting job growth in Broward County with the launch of greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com, a new initiative funded by the Alliance's CEO Council.

[Greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com](http://greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com) is a new online tool which will assist relocating and expanding companies in the site selection process. It does this by efficiently answering the main questions businesses have when they are involved in the site selection analysis

process. These questions include:

- What buildings and land are available in our community?
- What are the market characteristics (demographics, workforce, spending)?
- What are the business synergies and opportunities in unique locations of our community?
- What are the unique geographic characteristics and advantages?

All of this information is provided to website users in minutes using the greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com interactive Internet GIS mapping technology.

In addition, greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com will provide dynamic mapping capabilities including the ability to zoom in/out, move the map, identify information and view geographic "layers" of information such as airports, ports, hospitals and railroads.

The importance of providing quality property and site selection information is critical because over ninety percent of the initial site selection screening is now done using the Internet.

[Greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com](http://greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com) gathers economic, planning, infrastructure, geographic and demographic information often sought by businesses looking to relocate or expand into a 'one-stop-shop' business portal on the Web. It allows users to view, create and print maps; find available commercial or business property; and develop custom demographic radius reports.

The free website program is available to the public online beginning October 1st at <http://greaterfortlauderdale.zoomprospector.com>.

Governor Crist Promotes Ft. Lauderdale International Boat Show (Largest trade show of its kind supports Florida's \$16 billion boating industry)

Governor Charlie Crist recently joined with tourism, economic development and marine industry partners to promote the upcoming 51st Annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show®, the world's largest in-water boat show. Governor Crist encouraged domestic and international consumers to register for the event that will run from October 28 to November 1, 2010.

The Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show® will take place at several locations, including the Bahia Mar Yachting Center, the Hall of Fame Marina, the Las Olas Municipal Marina, the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Marina, and the Broward County Convention Center. This year's event will feature more than \$3 billion worth of boats, yachts, super yachts, electronics, engines and thousands of boating accessories from every major marine manufacturer and boat builder around the globe, as well as multiple pavilions dedicated to international vendors. Other activities at the boat show include marine education seminars and youth fishing clinics.

Governor Crist, along with VISIT FLORIDA, the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development and the Marine Industries Association of South Florida, are encouraging participation in this year's event.

For more information regarding the 51st Annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, visit www.showmanagement.com.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Launches Health Insurance Small Business Tax

Credit Program

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida (BCBSF) is launching a health insurance Small Business Tax Credit Program for small business decision-makers, to help them take advantage of the health care tax credit opportunity created by the new health care reform law.

BCBSF is partnering with H&R Block to provide an online calculator in which small businesses can estimate their potential savings from the Health Care Reform Small Business Tax Credit. To help small businesses to understand the tax credit, BCBSF will be offering a number of online webinars and seminars. These sessions are free and will feature H&R Block tax professionals. For information about the events and how to qualify, please [click here](#). For specific questions about the small business tax credit, businesses can call 1-800-HRBLOCK or visit www.FloridaBlueTaxCredit.com to register for the FREE webinar or seminar.

Education & Workforce Development

Broward County Public School District a Finalist for Council of Urban Boards of Education's Top Honor

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) has announced that four urban school districts – Maryland's Baltimore City Public Schools, Broward County Public Schools, Texas' Houston Independent School District, and Virginia's Portsmouth Public Schools – have been named finalists for the 2010 Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence.

"These finalists demonstrate the innovative efforts that are occurring in urban education," said NSBA's Executive Director Anne L. Bryant. "Too often we hear about the failures in our urban schools, yet these school districts are successful in helping children reach great academic heights."

The finalists were selected based on the following four criteria:

- Excellence in school board governance
- Building civic capacity
- Closing the achievement gap—equity in education
- Demonstrated success of academic excellence

The 2010 CUBE Annual Award for Urban School Board Excellence will be presented on October 2, 2010, at the CUBE Annual Conference, to be held at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore.

Founded in 1940, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) is a not-for-profit organization representing state associations of school boards and their 95,000 local school board members throughout the U.S.

Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School Named Blue Ribbon School

Virginia Shuman Young Montessori Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale is one of only 304 schools in the nation to be named as a 2010 Blue Ribbon School. The announcement was recently made by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at a press conference held at a Blue Ribbon School in Washington, D.C.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high

schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

In the past 28 years, approximately 6,000 of America's schools have received this coveted award. Eagle Point Elementary School received the honor in 2007 and, in 2009, both Pompano Beach High School and William T. McFatter Technical Center were named as Blue Ribbon Schools. This year 254 public and 50 private schools were selected.

Sheridan Park Elementary School Recognized for Outstanding Professional Learning Communities

The Florida Association for Staff Development (FASD) recently recognized Sheridan Park Elementary School for its model implementation of professional learning communities at an awards luncheon during the FASD Fall Leadership Conference. The 2010 FASD Award Review Committee chose the school's application for school-wide implementation of professional learning communities. This staff development initiative, which included yearlong documentation and logging of student work and progress, will be recognized for "Outstanding Staff Development Practices." The FASD promotes student achievement by providing and supporting effective professional learning opportunities for educators.

Parkside Elementary School Teacher Recognized as Florida's ABCTE State Teacher of the Year

Parkside Elementary School special education teacher Danny Davis was recently recognized as the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) State Teacher of the Year for Florida in a ceremony at Parkside. In nominating Davis for the award, Parkside Elementary School Principal Susan Colton wrote, "Mr. Davis came from the private sector and not only has become a highly successful teacher, but has also received his Autism Endorsement through the University of Florida Graduate School of Education. I highly recommend Mr. Danny Davis as the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence Teacher of the Year. He exemplifies what alternative certification in education should look like and is all about!" Davis was also recognized by name last month by Dr. Carl Harris, Deputy Assistant Secretary with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, in a ceremony in Washington D.C.

Business Briefs and Alliance Member News

(Alliance members in bold)

Congratulations go to Alliance members **Kathryn Dinkin, Southeast Florida Regional President, Wachovia, a Wells Fargo Company; Kathy Koch, President, Ambit Advertising and Public Relations; and Dr. Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, President/CEO of United Way of Broward County**, who were recognized as three of South Florida's Most Influential Business Women by the **South Florida Business Journal**. An event for the honorees was held at Hyatt Regency Pier 66 on September 16.

Balfour Beatty Construction US has recently been awarded a contract to manage construction for the Terminal 4 Gate Replacement at **Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport**. Valued at approximately \$100 million, the project is part of a \$1 billion expansion program to provide a user-friendly, world-class facility for the 21 million passengers who travel through the airport each year. Phased construction for the project is scheduled to start in summer 2011. The company has also been selected, in a joint venture with McCarthy Building Companies, to provide design and build services for the \$503 million Fort Hood Replacement Hospital project at Fort Hood, Texas. The 944,000-square-foot facility will

replace the existing 45-year-old Carl R Darnall Army Medical Center and provide a new state-of-the-art healthcare facility for US service members and their families.

Duke Realty Corporation's South Florida office has expanded its office holdings by 465,492 square feet with the acquisition of Royal Palm I and Royal Palm II, two Class A office buildings in Plantation. This purchase increases Duke Realty's office portfolio in South Florida to 1.9 million square feet in 13 buildings and its total portfolio of office, industrial and retail properties in Broward County to 2.4 million square feet. "The acquisition of these two office buildings in Plantation is consistent with Duke Realty's strategy to shift capital from Midwest suburban office assets to quality properties in select locations in other areas of the United States," said Ed Mitchell, Senior Vice President, Duke Realty's South Florida operations. "The South Florida area is a target market for Duke Realty, and Royal Palm I and Royal Palm II are high-quality properties with a strong tenant base." Both Royal Palm I and Royal Palm II are located in the Southpointe Centre Office Park in close proximity to Interstate 595.

Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International has been selected to receive two awards (The Best Overall Program and Innovation: Youth and Education) at the Sister Cities International 2010 Annual Awards Program in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Fort Lauderdale commercial real estate service firm **Mink & Mink, Inc.** recently negotiated a new lease agreement for 9,928 square feet of office space at 2413 & 2435 E Atlantic Blvd. in Pompano Beach. RT Counseling, Inc. of Fort Lauderdale Inc. is the new tenant. Debra Mink, founder and president of the firm, brokered the transactions on behalf of the landlord, SJS – 2401 E. Atlantic Blvd. Limited Partnership.

Upcoming Economic Development Meetings, Missions & Events

Enterprise Florida Events:

China Hi-Tech Fair

November 16-21, 2010

Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center, China

Event Type: International Trade Fair

Industry Sector: Various

Arab Health 2011 – The Middle East's #1 Trade Show

January 24-27, 2011

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Event Type: International Trade and Investment

Industry Sector: Life Sciences

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 go to <http://eflorida.com/Events.aspx>.

Other Events:

Future of Florida Forum (Presented by the Florida Chamber Foundation)

October 11-12, 2010

Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL

For more information, please go to www.FloridaChamber.com/Forum.

2010 Import/Export Workshop

Presented by the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development and Becker & Poliakoff

October 14, 2010 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Location: Port Everglades Administration Building, 1850 Eller Drive, Room 301, Fort Lauderdale

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

BioFlorida's 13th Annual Conference

October 24-26, 2010

Location: Marriott Harbor Beach, Fort Lauderdale

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

Minority Business Conference

November 9, 2010 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Broward College - Central Campus, Institute for Public Safety Auditorium, 3501 S.W. Davie Road, Davie

For additional information, please contact Irma Avila at 954-201-7808 or iavila@broward.edu.

Enterprise Development Corp. of South Florida's 13th Annual Emerging Technology Business Showcase

Friday, November 12, 2010

Location: Hilton Hotel, Deerfield Beach

For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.edc-tech.org/>.

Alliance Calendar of Events

Alliance Annual Meeting and Dinner

Thursday, October 14, 2010

6:00 p.m. Registration, Silent Auction and Reception

7:30 p.m. Program and Dinner

Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six Resort & Spa, 2301 S.E. 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale

To become a sponsor, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at

lizt@gfalliance.org.

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

Entrepreneur Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Location: Transwestern, 110 Tower, 110 SE 6th Street, 30th Floor Conference Room Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Kathleen Weekes at 954-627-0132 or at

kweekes@gfalliance.org.

Leadership Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 10, 2010 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Becker & Poliakoff, P.A., 3111 Stirling Road, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at

lizt@gfalliance.org.

Governor Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Tuesday, November 16, 2010 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Starmark International, 1815 Griffin Road, Dania Beach, FL 33004

For more information, please contact Liz Taschereau at 954-627-0133 or at

lizt@gfalliance.org.

Corporate Council Meeting (by invitation only)

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 8:30 a.m. - 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.

Calendar subject to change without notice. Please go to www.gfalliance.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).

THE ALLIANCE: *PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH*

Broward County's Official Economic Development Partnership

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