



On the Economic Scene



A weekly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Department of Economic Development

February 16, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

JET BLUE TO START DAYTONA BEACH-NEW YORK SERVICE -- Jet Blue recently announced it will begin daily service between New York and Daytona Beach beginning early next year. The airline plans to offer one daily flight between Daytona Beach and John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City on a 150-seat Airbus A-320 aircraft. The local recruiting effort has included dozens of face-to-face visits between airline officials, airport staff and local business leaders. This included pledges by 30 local businesses into a travel bank managed by the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce that guarantees \$250,000 in pre-paid airline tickets for the first year of service. Other incentives include \$400,000 in advertising with these costs shared between the airport, and Volusia's tourism authorities.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ASIAN MARKETS -- The U.S. Small Business Administration's State Trade and Export Promotion (STEP) program and Enterprise Florida are offering a limited number of reimbursable Target Sector Trade Grants and Gold Key Grants to qualified Florida companies to help them enter and expand their global sales in Asia. Target Sector Trade Grants will cover 100 percent of a trade show booth up to \$7,500 and Gold Key Grants will cover a two-day Gold Key Service with an interpreter provided by the U.S. Commercial Service up to \$1,500. For information, call Leigh Shapleigh at Volusia County Economic at 386-248-8048 or email lshapleigh@volusia.org.

FDOT WEBSITE PROVIDES INFO ON I-4 INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION -- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) website cflroads.com provides information on area road projects including the \$205-million I-4 interchange reconstruction. This project involves widening I-95 from four to six lanes from north of State Road 44 to north of U.S. 92 (International Speedway Boulevard). The project also includes the reconstruction of the systems interchange with I-4, I-95 and U.S. 92.

STARTUP QUEST AN EVENT FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS -- Startup Quest is a free nationally recognized 10-session entrepreneurship program that pairs participants with seasoned entrepreneurs to create a business plan and investor pitch. The program starts March 20 from 1 - 5 p.m. For information call 386-323-7027.

WORKSHOP ON STARTING A BUSINESS -- The local SCORE chapter, in cooperation with Friends of the Deltona Library, is presenting a free workshop for new entrepreneurs or those considering starting a small business. The workshop is February 24 from 9:30 a.m. - noon at the Deltona Public Library, 2150 Eustace Ave. For information call 386-255-6889 or go online to score87.org.

WORKSHOP ON LEGAL, INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES -- The local SCORE chapter is presenting a free workshop on legal and insurance considerations for new small businesses. The workshop will be February 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. at the UCF Business Incubator at Daytona Beach International Airport. For information call 386-255-6889 or go online to score87.org.

43rd SPACE CONGRESS SET FOR CAPE CANAVERAL -- The 43rd Space Congress is a showcase of space, aviation, technology, logistics and manufacturing. The event will be April 28 - 30 at Cape Canaveral. For information go to: spacecongress.rostrum-cms.com/registration.

FLORIDA AMONG LOWEST IN GENDER PAY GAP -- A pay disparity exists between men and women, but in Florida the gap is the smallest in the U.S. Only Washington D.C. has a smaller gap, according to Website Expert Market. In Florida men make an average of \$6,390 more annually than their female counterparts. In Washington the gap is \$5,850.

FLORIDA A LEADER IN TECH EMPLOYMENT GROWTH -- Florida gained 12,500 tech jobs in 2014, third highest among the states, according to a report published by CompTIA. Tech jobs accounted for 5.7 percent of the private sector workforce and more than 11 percent of all U.S. private sector payroll. For more go to: tinyurl.com/kunbmpj.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! -- Please send your business news items to Dave Byron, Volusia County Community Services Department Director, at dbyron@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.