



May 14, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES – The Volusia County Economic Development Division and the Volusia Chamber Alliance have collaborated to offer a free, two-hour workshop on business planning essentials for before, during, and after a disaster. Participants will also gain a better understanding of available planning tools and resources. The workshops, funded by U.S. Economic Development Administration, will be held at 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. May 22. The morning workshop will be in the Dennis R. McGee Room at the Daytona Beach International Airport; the afternoon workshop will be in the Orange City Council Chambers, 201 North Holly Ave., Orange City. A representative from the International Economic Development Administration will lead the workshop and be available for one-on-one business-owner meetings on a pre-scheduled basis. For more information and to register, visit www.volusiachamberalliance.com.

WORKFORCE TRAINING LAB RIBBON CUTTING – The College of Workforce, Continuing and Adult Education invites you to the ribbon cutting for its new short-term skilled-trades Workforce Training Lab at the New Smyrna Beach/Edgewater Campus of Daytona State College. The event will be held at the campus at 4 p.m. May 23 in Building 2, Room 105, 940 10th Street, New Smyrna Beach. To RSVP, contact Frank Mercer at 386-506-4461 or Frank.Mercer@DaytonaState.edu.

ON STAGE: PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY - The Performing Arts Academy at Atlantic High School aims to inspire and enrich student creativity through an innovative performing arts curriculum. It is focused on the technical and performance aspects of theatre, chorus, and dance and connects students to arts and communications related careers. The students perform with several groups at venues including the All-State Chorus, Disney Candlelight, Surfscapes Contemporary Dance Theatre, Fringe Festival, and the Florida State Thespians. Participants have the opportunity to earn superior ratings in chorus, dance and drama through county and state assessments. For more information, email Academy Director Allison Robertson at arobert@volusia.k12.fl.us.

MEDICA 2018 – Medica 2018, November 12 – 15 in Dusseldorf, Germany, is one of the premiere global Life Sciences/Medical trade shows this year. Enterprise Florida has secured space for a Florida Pavilion and individual booths are being offered. Many of Florida's top medical companies will promote their goods and services from the Florida Pavilion for the 24th consecutive year. Space is limited and will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. Target Sector Trade Show Grants are available to help offset exhibition costs. To learn more, contact Virgil Kimball at [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048) or vkimball@volusia.org.

WORKER COMP RATE DECREASE – The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (FOIR) has approved a rate decrease for workers' compensation insurance in Florida. The 1.8 percent decrease was filed by the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) in a law-only filing resulting from the effects of the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The NCCI's analysis to determine the revised P&C reflects provisions from the recently passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, including top corporate tax rate decreases, changes to reserve discount factors and other factors. This applies to both new and renewal workers' compensation insurance policies effective in Florida as of June 1, 2018. To review the FOIR news release, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ydyr8a53>.

ISM FORECAST PROJECTS 6.6 PERCENT GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING REVENUE – In its Spring 2018 Economic Forecast, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) projects that manufacturing revenue growth will be 6.6 percent for the year. This represents an improvement of 1.5 percentage points over December's projection of 5.1 percent and a 2.5 percentage point increase over actual revenue growth in 2017. When manufacturers were asked about hiring, 77.9 percent said they had difficulty adding workers and 53.3 percent said they had to raise wages to successfully recruit. To read more and see the full ISM Spring Forecast visit <https://tinyurl.com/y852k9h6>.

CYBERSTATES INNOVATION SCORE – Technology-related employment in Florida grew by an estimated 12,020 jobs in 2017 and the industry contributed \$63.5 billion to the state's economy, according to Cyberstates 2018, the definitive annual analysis of the nation's tech industry published by CompTIA. Florida also made a big jump in its Cyberstates Innovation Score, placing 2nd this year, up from 23rd a year ago. Florida ranks 4th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia in net tech employment, which makes up 5.7 percent of the state's total workforce. The average tech industry wage in Florida is 87 percent higher than the state's average private sector annual wage of \$47,880. To learn more, visit <http://www.comptia.org>.

RICH STATES, POOR STATES REPORT – The eleventh edition of Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index reveals a pro-growth trend for 2018. The 2018 economic outlook of states is ranked using 15 equally weighted policy variables, including various tax rates, regulatory burdens and labor policies. The eleventh edition also examines trends over the last few decades that have helped or hurt states' economies. For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7x528sh>.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! – Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Community Information director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.