



On the Economic Scene Make it Volusia

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

February 26, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

TRADE MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN REGION – Grow your international sales in 2018 by participating in the U.S. Commercial Service's Trade Americas program from May 6 to 18. The trade mission offers U.S. companies the opportunity to explore six markets in the Caribbean region, which represents 43 million people who collectively imported over \$20.9 billion of U.S. goods in 2016. This trade mission has two key components: the U.S. Commercial Service's Trade Americas – Business Opportunities in the Caribbean Region Conference hosted in Miami, and the arrangement of business-to-business matchmaking appointments in up to two Caribbean countries. Participants will also receive pre-arranged one-on-one consultations with U.S. diplomats with expertise in markets throughout the region. The conference will focus on regional-specific sessions, market access and trade financing resources. Participating U.S. companies will be able to make industry contacts, gain market insights, identify potential partners and advance specific projects. Please apply early as space is limited. For details, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yahyhtwt>.

ACADEMY OF FINANCE – The Finance Academy at Spruce Creek High School prepares students with the analytical, mathematical and verbal skills needed for careers in the finance career cluster. In this Jump-Start Coalition program, students are trained for careers in banking, financial planning, accounting and money management through a rigorous curriculum and suggested internships in the local financial community. Students also have the opportunity to work at the student-run school branch of Launch Federal Credit Union. For more information, email Academy Director Christy Grusauskas at cbgrusau@volusia.k12.fl.us.

BUSINESS OWNER WORKSHOP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ZONING & LAND USE – This important SCORE workshop offers a unique opportunity to understand how land use, zoning and local permitting interact with your business. It provides the foundation for the types of questions that you as a business owner will need to ask when dealing with local jurisdictions. Additionally, it will provide you with various local and online resources to help seek answers to questions. The workshop will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at Daytona State College, UCF Building 150, Room 100. To register, visit <https://volusiaflagler.score.org> or call [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889).

CORPORATE VENTURE CAPITAL REPORT – CB Insights has released a comprehensive, data-driven look at global corporate venture capital (CVC) activity in 2017. Key findings include: Global CVC deal and dollar activity reached historic highs in 2017; funding rebounded significantly in 2017, increasing 18 percent over 2016; deals increased by 19 percent over the same period; and, the third quarter of 2017 saw a record 470 CVC deals, totaling \$9.3 billion in funding – the most since the third quarter of 2015. To review the 2017 global CVC report, visit www.cbinsights.com/reports/CB-Insights-CVC-Report-2017.pdf.

VETERANS FLORIDA – Veterans Florida is a nonprofit corporation created by the State of Florida to help veterans fully transition to civilian life in the Sunshine State. The organization connects veterans to employers, grants funds to employers to hire and train veterans, and educates veterans on how to open their own businesses in Florida. The Veterans Florida Business Training Grant program can provide funding to qualifying businesses for 50 percent of the training cost per full-time veteran employee, with a maximum amount of \$8,000 per employee. According to research conducted by Veterans Florida, hiring agents report that veterans rate significantly higher for productivity, reduced turnover and reduced training needs compared to their civilian peers. Whether you are hiring your first veteran or you're a seasoned veteran-friendly employer, Veterans Florida can help. To learn more, visit <http://www.veteransflorida.org/>.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE FLORIDA SPORTS INDUSTRY – The Florida Sports Foundation (FSF) has released the results of an economic impact survey of the Florida sport industry for fiscal year 2015-16. The state's leading sports promotion and development organization found the state's sports economy has an economic impact of \$57.4 billion and supports 580,000 jobs in the state in four categories: amateur and leisure sports, professional sports, collegiate sports, and the equine industry. According to Visit Florida, the 16 million visitors attracted to Florida for sports activities represent 15 percent of approximately 106 million nonresident visitors to Florida last year. The FSF report is available at www.flasports.com/2017/01/23/sports-in-florida-is-a-57-4-billion-industry/.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: MARCH 2018 – Women's History Month had its origins as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress passed Pub. L. 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week." Women's History Month followed in 1987 and to the present day with the support of Congress and annual presidential proclamations. According to 2016 Census Bureau American Fact Finder data reports, the number of females in the United States as of July 2016 was 164 million. The number of males was 159.1 million. A total of 76.8 million females age 16 and older participated in the civilian labor force in 2016. This comprises 58.1 percent of females age 16 and older.

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.