



On the Economic Scene



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

March 21, 2016

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

FLORIDA JOBS -- The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recently reported that for January 2016 the private-sector industries gaining the most jobs over the past year were professional and business services with 66,300 new jobs; leisure and hospitality with 50,500 new jobs; and trade, transportation and utilities with 39,900 new jobs. Florida job postings showed 287,651 openings in January, and Florida's 24 regional workforce boards reported more than 28,843 Floridians, including 1,417 veterans, were placed in jobs.

EXPORT SALES MISSION -- South Korea and Taiwan are highly attractive export markets for U.S. companies. The United States is Taiwan's third largest trading partner, accounting for more than 10 percent of its total trade. Florida companies are invited to join the Enterprise Florida led sales mission and participate in the Gold Key program offering one-on-one appointments. Small and mid-sized Florida manufacturers and professional service providers may qualify for a Gold Key Grant that will offset the matchmaking registration fee of \$2,100 for the first company representative. To learn more call Leigh Shapleigh or Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048.

PROFIT MASTERY -- The Small Business Development Center at Daytona State College is offering the Profit Master course March 22, 24, 29 and 31. This is a comprehensive financial training program for business owners, counselors and managers. To learn more or to register call [386-506-4723](tel:386-506-4723).

FLORIDA COMPANIES TO WATCH -- Nominations are now open for the 2016 Florida Companies to Watch (FCTW) award. GrowFL will host a one-hour webinar at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 31, to answer questions about FCTW and the nomination/application process. The webinar will provide tools to enable companies to have a better understanding of how to apply. To register for the webinar visit http://growfl.com/flctw16/partner_webinar/.

SMALL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE -- The National Small Business Association (NSBA) will host a Small Business Leadership Conference June 6 to 7, 2016, in Washington, D.C. This year's conference will focus more on best practices for being a successful advocate. Small business leaders are invited to attend for two days of networking, problem-solving, knowledge building, and high-level discussions on the issues that matter most for small business. For more information visit www.nsba.biz.

ACADEMY OF FINANCE -- The Academy of Finance trains students for careers in banking and credit, financial planning, international finance and economics, securities and insurance, and accounting. The rigorous curriculum includes an on-campus credit union and internships in the local financial community. The Academy of Finance is available at University High School in Orange City and Spruce Creek High School in Port Orange.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE CAN IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS -- SCORE will present a free seminar on outstanding customer service from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach. The seminar is designed to assist business entrepreneurs and their employees in providing the best possible service. Reservations are required and can be made by calling [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889) or visiting www.score87.org.

MANUFACTURING ORDERS IMPROVE -- The Institute for Supply Management's index climbed to 49.5 percent for February 2016, the highest since September 2015, according to a recent report from the Arizona-based group. While the reading was just shy of 50 percent, the dividing line between contraction and expansion, the improvement corroborates other industry reports that suggest a manufacturing slump may be easing. A separate report from the Federal Reserve showed factory output in January 2016 climbed by the most in six months due to production of consumer goods.

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