



On the Economic Scene



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

Jan. 16, 2017

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING -- The next quarterly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Economic Development Division is scheduled for 7:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 3, in the Dennis R. McGee Room on the second floor of Daytona Beach International Airport. Patty Rippey, redevelopment director for the City of South Daytona, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048).

FLORIDA 50 STOCK INDEX -- The University of Miami (UM) Florida 50 Stock Index debuted in January as a way to track Florida firms in the S&P Composite 1500 Index. As reported, the UM Index posted a gain of 11.5 percent, beating the broader S&P 500 by 1.92 percent and the S&P 1500 by 0.81 percent. Eight of the firms in the Florida 50 Index ended 2016 with annual stock price gains of more than 40 percent, UM said, including Brown & Brown in Daytona Beach. The UM Florida 50 Stock Index (www.UMFL50.com) is meant to serve as a bellwether of Florida's economy.

SUPERVISION SKILLS WORKSHOP -- Effective performance demands a comprehensive skill set that prepares supervisors for the key role they play in their organization's success. Here is your chance to spend four consecutive Wednesdays, Feb. 15 to March 8, with noted performance consultant Debbie Featherston, learning how to supervise for advantage in today's rapidly changing marketplace. Learn valuable skills through case studies, skill practice, group discussion and action planning. To register, call [386-506-4224](tel:386-506-4224) or email ParkerJ@DaytonaState.edu.

EARLY RETIREMENT RANKINGS -- Florida ranked sixth among the states as best for early retirement in a new study by financial technology company SmartAsset. Researchers studied factors such as real estate, personal income and sales tax rates, average housing costs, the non-housing cost of living, access to health care, and availability of leisure activities. Wyoming topped the list, followed by Kentucky, Mississippi, South Dakota and Tennessee. Florida moved up from ninth the previous year.

ENGINEERING ACADEMY -- The Engineering Academy at DeLand High School prepares students for careers in engineering, manufacturing and technical design through the integration of math and science concepts, real-world problems, and software applications. The academy uses Amatrol industry-standard equipment and an integrated curriculum to connect various areas and levels of manufacturing. These include quality assurance, design processes, manufacturing processes, automated materials handling, electrical systems and fluid power. This program culminates with a semester-long internship working in local industry. Contact Academy Director Peter Policke at pwpolick@volusia.k12.fl.us.

EMBRY-RIDDLE ONLINE -- Embry-Riddle has been ranked No. 1 in the U.S. News & World Report's 2017 list for best online bachelor's degrees in the nation. This is the fourth consecutive year that Embry-Riddle Worldwide has secured a spot on the coveted annual ranking of the nation's top online educators. Last year, Embry-Riddle Worldwide tied for first with Penn State World Campus and was listed as the No. 1 Best Online Bachelor's Degree Program for Veterans.

iWORKINTHESUPPLYCHAIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED -- Supply chain industry association MHI has launched the iWorkInTheSupplyChain awareness campaign to showcase the \$156 billion industry's impact on the national economy. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jpg3b6d> and view the MHI video with supply chain worker personal testimonials. They are sponsoring the 2017 MHI Face of the Supply Chain contest, and the winner will be announced at the ProMat conference in April. The deadline for submissions by supply chain industry personnel is March 4, 2017.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS -- As recently reported in USA Today, 61 percent of Social Security retirement benefit recipients received at least half of their income from Social Security, which is designed to replace 40 percent of the average retiree's pre-retirement income. A popular rule of thumb states that retirees should expect to need 80 percent of their pre-retirement income to live comfortably; therefore, six in 10 people may be too reliant on Social Security. Thirty-three percent of beneficiaries rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income.

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.