



On the Economic Scene



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

Feb. 13, 2017

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

HEALTHCARE ACADEMY -- The Healthcare Academy at Pine Ridge High School provides training for students interested in athletic training and advanced sciences, first responder, and fire rescue services. Students are rigorously prepared and complete projects in these areas through core and career and technical education classes. For more information, email Academy Director Renae Lee at RALee1@volusia.k12.fl.us.

SIMPLE STEPS TO BECOMING A NONPROFIT COMPANY -- SCORE will present a free seminar, "Simple Steps to Becoming a Nonprofit Company," from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at Daytona State College. Reservations are required and can be made online at www.score87.org or by calling [386-255-6889](tel:386-255-6889).

SBIR/STTR PHASE I AND II GRANT WORKSHOPS -- Mark your calendar for two workshops by the UCF Business Incubation Program that will provide an extensive overview of these two federal small business research and development funding programs. Attendance includes a free proposal review. The Phase I workshop will be Wednesday, April 26; with Phase II on Thursday, April 27. Both are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Daytona Beach International Airport Business Incubator, 601 Innovation Way. For more information, contact Ricardo Garcia at [407-823-2346](tel:407-823-2346) or RG@ucf.edu. Register at www.SBIR-UCFBIPDaytona.eventbrite.com.

ATLANTA FED POLL ON LABOR MARKET CONDITIONS -- Last November, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta asked firms across its district about hiring plans, wage trends, and the outlook for growth. Nearly two-thirds of responding firms planned to increase employment levels, a bit stronger than last year. Among firms increasing employment, most indicated they were doing so because of strong sales expectations. Firms indicated that their desire to keep operating costs low and the inability to find workers with required skills were restraints to hiring. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/jautamv>.

ROBOTICS INDUSTRY FORECAST -- As reported in USA Today, the professional service robot industry expects to sell a third more units from 2016 through 2019 than it sold in the past 17 years, according to the International Federation of Robotics. According to consultant group McKinsey & Co., roughly 50 percent of worker activities can be turned over to some sort of machine or robot, increasingly helped along by artificial-intelligence software. The report found more than 70 professions where at least 90 percent of activities can be automated.

HOW TO LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA FOR YOUR SMALL BUSINESS -- This free event, sponsored by the SBDC at Daytona State College, will be held from 8 to 10 a.m. Feb. 24. The two-hour workshop is also available by webinar at the same time. To register, call [386-506-4723](tel:386-506-4723) or visit <http://bit.ly/SocialMediaFeb24>.

STATE LEVEL Q3 GDP -- According to recent GDP growth statistics by the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Florida landed in the middle of the pack of U.S. states. Florida's real GDP ranked 29th in the third quarter of 2016, growing 3.6 percent — a hair above the nation's 3.5 percent growth in real gross domestic product. To access the BEA report, visit <http://www.floridatrend.com/public/userfiles/news/pdfs/qgsp0217.pdf>.

DRONE SALES RISING -- According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the drone business realized a 52 percent increase in 2014 U.S. sales over 2013, and a year-over-year increase in 2015 of 62 percent. Worldwide sales in 2015 exceeded 4 million units totaling more than \$1.5 billion, while trade association figures show 700,000 units were sold in the U.S. generating more than \$100 million in 2015 sales.

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.