



On the Economic Scene



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

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ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

ACADEMY OF CULINARY DESIGN -- The Academy of Culinary Design at Seabreeze High School provides an in-depth experience of the culinary and hospitality industries. Through classroom labs, off-site volunteer opportunities and local industry mentors, students gain valuable knowledge, experience and insight into one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. The academy uses the Florida Restaurant Association's curriculum, ProStart, to provide industry standard training. Additionally, students have the opportunity to earn the ServSafe Industry certification. For more information, contact Academy Director Meaghan McCracken at memccrac@volusia.k12.fl.us.

GROW FL NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN -- Nominations for the 2017 Florida Companies to Watch program are now open. The awards program honors second-stage growth companies in every industry across the state. Selection is based on steady growth in employee counts and revenue as well as strength in leadership, corporate culture, community support, philanthropy and innovation in management or technology. Nominations will close March 10. To learn more, call Virgil Kimball at 386-248-8048 or visit www.growfl.com/flctw17/program-eligibility.

CFP AND EDC MERGER -- Central Florida Partnership and the Orlando Economic Development Commission have merged into a new organization. This move comes after three years of extensive research and discussions and includes the combined resources and expertise of Volusia, Polk and Brevard counties. The merged organization will announce a new name in the coming months that will reflect its enhanced approach to economic development. Its offices will move later this year to 301 E. Pine St., Orlando. Earlier this year, the merged organization announced Tim Giuliani as its first president and chief executive officer after a nationwide search.

IMPROVING YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH CUSTOMER SERVICE -- SCORE will present a free seminar titled How Providing Outstanding Service Can Improve Your Business from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 27, in Daytona State College's UCF building. This workshop is designed to assist business entrepreneurs and their employees in providing the best possible customer service. Registrants will learn practical tools and techniques that can be applied to every customer interaction and important behaviors that ensure good values, goals and profitability. Reservations are required and can be made online at www.score87.org or by calling 386-255-6889.

HIGH TECH CORRIDOR CAREER EXPO -- The Florida High Tech Corridor is sponsoring a career expo that will bring together professionals from top universities throughout the nation, state colleges in Florida, and high tech businesses and K-12 school systems in the corridor. Career center professionals will convene in Orlando, allowing local companies and school systems to network with each state college and university. Discussion will focus on employment opportunities, hiring needs, and the strategies required to attract the best and brightest graduates in the country for high tech work in Florida. For more information, visit www.floridahightech.com/careerexpo.

TRAINING ON NEW FLORIDA BUILDING CODE -- The sixth edition 2017 Florida Building Code has a tentative effective date of Dec. 31, 2017. JC Code and Construction Consultants, in partnership with the Florida Home Builders Association, will offer seven hours of Florida Building Code continuing education. Training will be held Thursday, March 2, at the Advanced Technology College in Daytona Beach. For more information, contact Kailin Koch at kkoch@fhba.com or call 850-402-1849. Register online at www.fhba.com/education/building-code-training-sessions.

SOLAR INDUSTRY JOBS GAIN IN FLORIDA -- In 2016, Florida gained 1,700 jobs in solar energy industries, according to the Solar Foundation's latest jobs census. Florida now has 8,260 solar workers, up from 6,560 in 2015, and the state ranks fifth in the nation for solar jobs. Nationwide, employment increased by more than 51,000 jobs to 260,077 solar workers, a 25 percent increase over 2015 levels. Visit www.thesolarfoundation.org/national for a summary and access to the full report.

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