



April 30, 2018

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK – The U.S. is celebrating National Small Business Week, April 29 to May 5, 2018. Festivities are organized by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and feature the first-ever National Small Business Week Virtual Conference, which will include mentoring sessions and educational webinars. SBA Administrator Linda McMahon will recognize national award winners in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., including this year's national Small Business Person of the Year. Every year since 1963, SBA has highlighted the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small-business owners and other small-business supporters from across the nation through National Small Business Week. Visit www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week to learn more.

VOLUSIA COUNTY QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING COMING MAY 4 – Don't miss the next quarterly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Economic Development Division. It will take place at 7:45 a.m. Friday, May 4, in the Dennis R. McGee Room at Daytona Beach International Airport. For information, call [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048).

ACADEMY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTICS – The academy at Spruce Creek High School prepares students for tomorrow's careers in the fields of information technology, computer programming, robotics, simulation and game design. In this four-year, school-within-a-school program, students are immersed in a project-based learning environment designed to integrate all academic and technology areas. The academy has partnered with the Ford Motor Company Fund and its Next Generation Learning Network curriculum to deliver a hands-on approach to learning with a multidisciplinary team of teachers. For details, contact Academy Director Dru Urquhart at dhurquha@volusia.k12.fl.us.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC INCREASE AT DAB – Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport (DAB) increased 4.2 percent for March in comparison with the same month last year. During the month, 72,957 passengers flew in or out of the county-operated airport, compared to 70,023 passengers last March. For the 12 months ending March 31, total passenger traffic at DAB increased 2.4 percent with 708,116 passengers traveling through the facility last year compared to 724,765 passengers this year. For more information, contact Business Development Director Jay Cassens at [386-248-8030](tel:386-248-8030), ext. 18309.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES – Opportunity Zones were established in the federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to encourage long-term investment and job creation in targeted communities by reducing taxes for job creators. The program encourages private investment in these zones by providing a tax incentive for investors who invest in qualified businesses and property in these areas. Opportunity Zones maintain their designation for 10 years and are identified by each state. To see the list of census tracts that have been recommended for designation in each Florida county, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y7542x5c>. For a list of FAQs on the Opportunity Zone program, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycadvn37>.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – In the wake of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, economic recovery assistance is available immediately from a volunteer corps of highly skilled, senior level, professional economic developers. They will be deployed by the International Economic Development Council, thanks to funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Volunteers are deployed for one week to provide intensive assistance to communities that have immediate economic recovery needs. Assistance will also be available for longer-term collaboration. To apply, complete the Access Florida Assistance form at <https://tinyurl.com/y7jt3ke7>. See the one-page program information sheet at <https://goo.gl/cif5oH>.

TRADE AMERICAS PROGRAM – The Trade Americas program offers U.S. companies the opportunity to explore six markets in the Caribbean region of 43 million people that collectively represent exports of more than \$20 billion of U.S. goods in 2016. The Trade Americas Business Opportunities in the Caribbean Region Conference, hosted in Miami on May 6 and 7 by the U.S. Commercial Service, will focus on regional specific sessions, market access, trade financing resources, and pre-arranged one-one-one consultations with U.S. diplomats. The conference is followed by a trade mission May 8-11 to the Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. The mission is open to U.S. companies from a cross section of industries with growing potential in the Caribbean region. To learn more, contact Virgil Kimball at [386-248-8048](tel:386-248-8048) or Vkimball@volusia.org.

USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE: THE 2017 WHIP – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will make disaster payments of up to \$2.36 billion, as provided by Congress, to help America's farmers and ranchers recover from hurricanes and wildfires. The funds are available as part of the new 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP). USDA's Farm Service Agency will make these disaster payments to agricultural producers to offset losses from hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and devastating wildfires. Sign-up for the new program, authorized by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, will begin no later than July 16. <https://tinyurl.com/y9px5z55>.

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.