



March 11, 2019

ONLINE VERSION AT FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG

SBDC DAY – The annual America's SBDC Day will take place on Wednesday, March 20. SBDC Day is a national, collective celebration of the success and impact that the nearly 1,000 America's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) have had across the nation in economic development and the small businesses community. This national movement celebrates America's SBDCs, the U.S. Small Business Administration's largest business assistance program. The latest annual results noted America's SBDC Network helped clients create over 93,400 jobs and \$7 billion in new sales. The experienced team at the SBDC at Daytona State College is ready to support businesses anywhere in Volusia County. Contact them and access their many resources through www.sbdcdaytona.com. Nationwide SBDC Day information is available at <https://americassbdc.org/SBDCDay/> and on Twitter at #SBDCDay.

EXHIBIT AT THE INTERNATIONAL PARIS AIR SHOW 2019 – The renowned trade event, the International Paris Air Show, will take place from June 17 to 21 in Paris, France. It is among the world's largest air shows and attracts a myriad of companies representing aviation, aerospace and defense industry sectors. In 2017, nine Florida companies that participated reported estimated sales of over \$45.7 million. Come and exhibit with Enterprise Florida in the Florida Pavilion this year, but please do not delay as space is limited and sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Enterprise Florida is offering Target Sector Trade Show Grants to qualified companies that will pay for 75 percent of the cost of a turnkey booth up to a maximum of \$7,500. For information, contact Mike Cooney at mcooney@enterpriseflorida.com or call 407-956-5678.

ACADEMY OF FINANCE – The Academy of Finance at University High School trains students for careers in banking and credit, financial planning, international finance and economics, securities and insurance, and accounting through a rigorous curriculum, an on-campus credit union and internships in the local financial community. For more information, contact Academy Director Sheryl Flowers at sflower@volusia.k12.fl.us. The numerous Volusia County Schools career academy programs provide industry sector focused preparation and student engagement. As the workforce of tomorrow, academy students gain early career knowledge, skill development and workplace exposure. Business owners are encouraged to consider the advantages of participating with career academies.

MANUFACTURERS REPORT GROWTH AND OPTIMISM FOR 2019 – The nation's manufacturers continue to report solid growth during the first quarter of 2019 and remain very optimistic about business conditions overall. This according to the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) 2019 First Quarter Outlook Survey. Their optimism index, composed of responses that were somewhat or very positive, averaged 91.8 percent over the past nine calendar quarters. In contrast, responses from the previous eight quarters averaged 68.6 percent. Reflecting this overall optimism, manufacturers project a 2019 sales growth of 4.4 percent, employment growth of 2.2 percent and a 2.8 percent increase in capital spending. Access the NAM 1Q'19 Outlook Survey's complete results at www.nam.org/outlook.

SOLAR-RELATED JOB GROWTH – Solar-related jobs in Florida increased by 21 percent last year to 10,358, according to a report released Tuesday by The Solar Foundation. Nationally the outlook was not as bright, with a decline of nearly 8,000 solar jobs across the country, which amounts to a 3.2 percent drop, according to the National Solar Jobs Census 2018. The foundation blamed the nationwide slowdown in part on the industry's waiting to see how solar tariffs play out. Of the approximately 155,000 solar jobs in the U.S., about two-thirds of them are in the installation and project development sector, according to the Solar Foundation Census. To read the report, visit www.thesolarfoundation.org/national.

LAUNCH COST – Since the 1950s, high cost has been a major hurdle limiting access to space. As reported, between 1970 and 2000, the cost to launch a kilogram to space remained fairly steady, with an average of \$18,500 per kilogram. When the Space Shuttle was in operation, it could launch a payload of 27,500 kilograms for \$1.5 billion, or \$54,500 per kilogram. Today, state and private actors alike have ready access to space thanks to private companies providing launch services. Case in point, it is believed that a SpaceX Falcon 9 has brought the cost to something under \$3,500 per kilogram.

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU SHARES 2020 OUTREACH PLANS – The Census Bureau has just released an information sheet titled "How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond." Every household will have the option to respond to the survey invitation by phone, by mail or online. Approximately 95 percent of households will receive an invitation by mail, nearly 5 percent will receive the invitation by hand delivery, and fewer than 1 percent will participate directly with a Census taker to complete the survey. The Census invitations will be going out in March 2020. This Census 2020 information sheet is available at <http://tinyurl.com/y5422s8x>.

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.