FLORIDA’S ADVANCEMENT AND PROJECTS ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURS
Florida’s Economy: The 6 Industries Driving GDP Growth

Florida is the top travel destination in the world, relying on tourism to drive its economy more than any other state. The Sunshine State also relies heavily on international trade, agriculture, aerospace and aviation, and the life sciences. As of 2015, Florida has the fourth largest economy in the United States behind California, Texas and New York, with a real gross domestic (GDP) product of $840 billion and a $77 billion budget.

1. Tourism
A record 97 million tourists visited Florida in 2014, a 4% increase from the year before. As of 2015, the Department of Economic Opportunity estimates that of the 9.1 million people employed in Florida, 1.1 million have jobs related to the tourism industry, which contributed $51 billion to the state GDP.

Florida is well-known for its miles of sandy beaches and crystal-clear waters. Visitors from around the world are drawn to the state’s 2,200 miles of shoreline and 663 miles of beaches. Ninety-two percent of visitors to Florida’s beaches come from other states or overseas, and 40% of all U.S. visitors reported beach and waterfront activities as one of their top activities when visiting Florida.

Home to eight of the top 20 amusement parks in North America and three out of the top 20 water parks in the world, Florida welcomes millions of families each year to its amusement and theme parks. In 2014, an estimated 62 million people visited the Orlando area, where the majority of these parks are concentrated and employ thousands of Florida residents. Walt Disney World is the largest single-site employer in the nation, spending more than $1.2 billion on payroll and $474 million on benefits each year for 66,000 employees.

2. Agriculture
Florida's famed agriculture industry employs 2 million people and contributes more than $104 billion to the state’s economy each year. Florida's warm climate offers farmers a growing season from 100 to 200 days longer than other regions of the country. The nation’s highest annual average precipitation of any state also increases yield production to create ideal growing conditions.

The top five agricultural commodities in 2014 were greenhouse and nursery products, oranges, tomatoes, dairy products and sugarcane. Florida produces 70% of the annual U.S. production of citrus, and 95% of commercial orange production in the state is mostly used for producing 40% of the world’s orange juice supply. Florida ranks second nationally for greenhouse and nursery products, the state’s leading crops financially, and ranks second in U.S. production of fresh vegetables. Eighty percent of the fresh vegetables consumed in the U.S. from January through March each year come from Florida.

3. International Trade
Florida is one of the largest export states in the U.S. and is a major gateway for merchandise trade between North America, Latin America, the Caribbean and other world regions. Forty percent of all U.S. exports to Latin and South America pass through Florida. Given the convenient geographic layout of the state, most companies are a short drive to one of four major cargo gateway ports located in Florida. This access gives even small companies opportunities to export products overseas.

Merchandise exports shipped from and through Florida totaled $81.7 billion in 2014. International trade and investment accounted for about one-sixth of the state’s economic output in 2014 and supports an estimated 1 million jobs. Florida’s leading exports include motor vehicles, aircraft, engines and parts, telecommunications equipment, computers and components, and gold. The state is also expanding exports of waste and scrap, agricultural products, seafood, livestock, minerals, forestry products, and oil and gas.

4. Aerospace and Aviation
The annual economic impact of aviation-related activities in Florida is estimated at $144 billion, and its 19 commercial airports account for 10% of the nation’s total passengers. As of 2014, more than 2,000 aerospace and aviation companies are located in Florida, employing more than 87,000 workers making an average salary of $67,000.
Many of these companies are located in northwest Florida, which has become a hotbed of aviation and aerospace activity including research and development, testing and education. Home to 20 major military installations and more than 50,000 active duty military and a significant number of veterans, rocket scientists, machinists, pilots and engineers, Florida aerospace and aviation companies have a vast pool of qualified talent.

No other state rivals Florida’s history in the aerospace industry, and it is uniquely positioned to continue to be a leader in the field for some time. It is home to two of the nine active spaceports in the U.S.: Cape Canaveral Spaceport and the Cecil Field Spaceport. Eight of the 17 licenses permitting private firms to send rockets into space are authorized from sites in Florida, further cementing its place as a leader in aerospace travel.

5. Life Sciences
Florida has firmly established itself as a hub for the life sciences as 5,476 establishments located throughout the state directly support 79,000 jobs. As of 2015, Florida’s life science industry average salary is nearly double the state average at $73,545.

Florida is home to world-renowned biomedical research institutes, pharmaceutical and medical device companies, and more than 46,000 health care establishments. Over 200 pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing companies specializing in the development and manufacturing of new treatments, generics, nutraceuticals and over-the-counter drugs are based in the state. Florida is also ranked second among states for FDA-registered medical device manufacturing facilities.

6. Financial Services
While not many top banks are based in the state, most of the nation’s largest financial companies have extensive operations in Florida. With one of the wealthiest populations in the nation, Florida has the highest percentage of bank deposits held at out-of-state headquartered banks. Taking advantage of Florida’s business-friendly legislation, favorable tax climate and large market, finance, insurance and professional services firms represent 11% of the state’s employment with nearly 130,000 firms employing almost 900,000 Floridians.

Read more: Florida’s Economy: The 6 Industries Driving GDP Growth | Investopedia
www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/011316/floridas-economy-6-industries-driving-gdp-growth.asp#ixzz4wSTzDMIB
After attending high school and community college, Gov. Scott enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served on active duty aboard the USS Glover as a radar man. The G.I. Bill enabled Gov. Scott to attend college and law school. While enrolled at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and working full-time at a local grocery store, Gov. Scott and Ann made their first significant foray into the business world by buying two Kansas City doughnut shops for Gov. Scott’s mother to manage. Following graduation from UMKC with a degree in business administration, Gov. Scott earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University.

After law school, Gov. Scott stayed in Dallas, working for the city’s largest law firm, Johnson & Swanson, primarily representing companies in the health care, oil and gas and communication industries. In 1987, while still practicing law, Gov. Scott made an offer to purchase HCA, Inc. When the offer was rejected, Gov. Scott started Columbia Hospital Corporation with his and Ann’s entire life savings of $125,000. Gov. Scott also started Conservatives for Patient’s Rights, which advocated for free market principles of choice, competition, accountability and personal responsibility in health care. Gov. Scott wanted to prevent further government encroachment on the rights of patients.

When Gov. Scott left Columbia in 1997 at age 44, it was one of the most admired companies in America. It had grown to become the world’s largest health care company with more than 340 hospitals, 135 surgery centers, and 550 home health locations in 37 states and two foreign countries. Columbia employed more than 285,000 people, making it the 7th largest U.S. employer and the 12th largest employer worldwide.

Faith, Family and Community
Before moving to Tallahassee, the Scott family lived in Naples. When they are back home, they still attend Naples Community Church, which Rick and Ann helped start in 2006. Throughout their lives, Gov. Scott and First Lady Ann have served their community through volunteer and charitable work. Rick has served on the National Board of the United Way, and Gov. Scott and Ann have worked with World Vision to create a primary health care system in Bunyala, a poor area of Kenya. In addition, they fund scholarships that enable a low-income student to attend SMU Law School each year. They also fund an entrepreneur contest at George Washington University where one of their daughters received a business degree.

Businessman and Entrepreneur
Gov. Scott is known as an innovator in business, health care, and politics. His specialization was in health care mergers and acquisitions, and it was during his work on these transactions that he recognized how patients could be better served by improving hospital efficiency, lowering costs, and focusing on better outcomes.

Through his entrepreneurship, Gov. Scott developed a reputation in the health care industry for providing affordable, high quality care to patients. As Governor, he brings a similar vision for quality and efficiency to benefit the people of Florida.
She believes that by working to recruit new businesses to our state, supporting the growth of existing businesses and making investments in strong workforce development and infrastructure, we will ensure that Florida continues to lead the way.

She has built relationships with businesses, elected officials and policy experts across the country to ensure the department is effectively serving businesses, communities and individuals so that Florida remains the best place to live, learn, play, work and do business.

Before joining the department in 2013, Director Proctor practiced law with the Tallahassee-based firm Bryant Miller Olive, PA. She received her J.D. magna cum laude from the Florida State University College of Law and her bachelor's degree in International Affairs from Florida State University.

Cissy Proctor
Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Cissy Proctor was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott as the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in January 2016. Director Proctor is focused on ensuring that Florida remains the top state in the nation for job creation by continued efforts to diversify Florida's economy through partnerships across economic, workforce and community development.
Florida’s Infrastructure

- **15 Seaports**
- **3.3 Million** Seaport Containers
- **12,000** Groundwater Wells
- **900** Freshwater Springs
- **5 Major Aquifer Systems**
- **12,225 Bridges**
- **2,750 Miles of Railways**
- **122,000 Miles of Roadways**
- **128 Airports**

For more information about Florida’s economy, please visit www.MyFloridaCFO.com/FloridaBottomLine

Florida’s International Trade

- **Over $150 Billion** in total international trade
- **Total Exports** $82B
- **Total Imports** $72B

Top 3 Export Destinations

- **Brazil** $16B
- **Colombia** $6B
- **Chile** $4B

Top 3 Manufactured Exports

- **Computer & Electronics** $14B
- **Transportation Equipment** $9B
- **Chemicals** $7B

Florida’s exports support 270,000 jobs

Florida ranks:

- #1 in Export Intensity
- #1 Exporter to Latin America & the Caribbean
- Largest Number of Exporters
- Largest Exporter of High-Tech Goods

Sources: As of 2016, Enterprise Florida | U.S. Trade Administration

For more information about Florida’s economy, please visit www.MyFloridaCFO.com/FloridaBottomLine
FLORIDA’S YEAR IN REVIEW

PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS CREATED
237,100

PRIVATE SECTOR JOB GROWTH
3.5%

Higher than the national average of 1.7%

HIGHEST Private Sector Job Growth in Nation

PRIVATE SECTOR REAL GDP GROWTH
2.3%

- Faster than the national average of 1.2%
- 16th largest economy globally
- Fourth largest economy in the nation

FLORIDA BUSINESSES RAISED MORE THAN
$1 BILLION IN VENTURE CAPITAL

1,007 people move to Florida every day!

POPULATION OF
20.6 MILLION PEOPLE

MEDIAN HOME PRICES
UP 10%
TO $220,000

247,000 HOMES SOLD

SECOND BEST STATE FOR BUSINESS

2ND

FOURTH BEST BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE

4TH

SIXTH BEST FISCAL CONDITION

8

For more information about Florida’s economy, please visit www.MyFloridaCFO.com/FloridasBottomLine!
2 AGENDA
ORLANDO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

ARRIVAL

ACTIVITY - Land at Orlando International - Airport (MCO) or Sanford - International Airport (SFB)
LOCATION - 1 Jeff Fuqua Blvd, Orlando, FL 32827
NOTES - Transportation from airport to hotel is on your own, but there are many options available to you.
www.maingatetaxi.com/

ACTIVITY - Check into hotel
LOCATION - JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837

6:00 PM

ACTIVITY - Disney Springs (Optional) – Come meet some of your new friends for a fun-filled night at Disney Springs.
LOCATION - Hotel Lobby- Hotel transport to Disney Springs and back

9:30 PM

ACTIVITY - Return to hotel
LOCATION - JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837
ORLANDO SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

MORNING

ACTIVITY - Enjoy the JW Marriott Grande Lakes
LOCATION - JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida - Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837
NOTES - Enjoy the morning by exploring the world famous JW Marriott Grande Lakes. The resort features Greg Norman designed golf course, an award winning spa, a lazy river, and other amenities before you begin the week of ACE. Breakfast and lunch are on your own.

1:00 PM

ACTIVITY - ACE Registration and Check In
LOCATION - Monterey Room (Base/lower level) at the JW Marriott
NOTES - Attire for the day: Business Casual (no jeans or shorts please). Please wear closed toe comfortable shoes. Come get your ACE badges, packets, pins, and other fun things!

2:00 PM

ACTIVITY - ACE 8 Begins! History, expectations, and results of ACE!
SPEAKERS/HOST
- Dr. Maryse Robert – Director for Economic Development, Organization of American States –ACE in the context of the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC) (ACE Original Partner and Member of the ACE Committee)
- Guillermo Acosta – Under Secretary for Federal and Sectorial Articulation, Ministry of the Production of Argentina
- Dr. Barrett Haga - Senior Administrator – U.S. - Department of Commerce- History and Expectations of ACE and the US Innovation System (ACE Co-Founder and Member of the ACE Committee)
LOCATION - Monterey Room (Base level) at the JW Marriott
-JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837

2:30 PM

ACTIVITY - An Entrepreneurial Welcome!
SPEAKERS/HOST
- Jerry Ross – CEO, National Entrepreneur Center
- Elizabeth Krekel - Program Manager, Central Florida International Trade Office
LOCATION - Monterey Room (Base level) at the JW Marriott
-JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837
3:00 PM

**ACTIVITY** - There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven’t yet met.

**SPEAKERS/HOST**
- National Entrepreneur Center will be leading the group in a fun activity to introduce your new economic development friends!

**NOTES** - Get to know your new friends! An interactive event!

4:00 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Load bus

**LOCATION** - Hotel Lobby

4:15 PM - 4:45 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Travel to Walt Disney’s Magic Kingdom and unload bus

**LOCATION** - Disney Contemporary Resort, 4600 North World Dr., Orlando, FL 32830

**NOTES** - Main Hotel Security Gate at the Contemporary Hotel will direct the bus and vehicles.

5:00 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Tourism and Theme Park Simulation- Disney: An overview of Innovation and Simulation Technology of Walt Disney World

**SPEAKERS/HOST**
- **Dennis Lind** – Vice President, Design & Engineering - Walt Disney Parks & Resorts
- **Michael Tschanz**-Director, Systems Technology Strategy and Processes, Walt Disney World

**LOCATION** - Grand Republic Disney Contemporary Resort, 4600 North World Dr., Orlando, FL 32830

6:15 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Load Monorail to the Magic Kingdom
6:30 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Behind the Magic: Behind the scenes tour of the Magic Kingdom and the Seven Dwarfs Mine Train – Innovation, Engineering, Animation, and Artistry.

**LOCATION** - 1180 Seven Seas Dr, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

**NOTES** - No pictures will be allowed during the tour as this is proprietary equipment. Please turn all phones to “silent or vibrate” except USG phones. All USG personnel will need to replace their name ACE name badge with their CAC cards.

7:45 PM

**ACTIVITY** - The Magic Kingdom

**LOCATION** - 1180 Seven Seas Dr, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

**NOTES** - Explore Disney on your own! Dinner, rides, and other fun! You are allowed to take photos, etc!

9:00 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Happily, Ever After Event at the Magic Kingdom

**LOCATION** - 1180 Seven Seas Dr, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

**NOTES** - After the fireworks, please Monorail or walk back to the Contemporary Hotel Main Entrance. If you miss the bus, the JW Marriott has a hotel shuttle and taxis are also available.

9:45 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Load bus

10:00 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Depart to hotel

**LOCATION** - JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837
ORLANDO MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2017

6:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Day 1: Load bus and check out
LOCATION - Lobby JW Marriott Grande Lakes - 4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32837
NOTES - Attire for the day: Business or Business Casual (Coat with no tie). Please arrive on time. Please wear closed toed shoes. Long pants preferred due to construction. You will need to carry your passport or U.S. driver's license (for U.S. Citizens) at all times.

7:15 AM

ACTIVITY - Depart
LOCATION - We are departing early due to rush hour traffic.

8:00 AM

ACTIVITY - Arrive
LOCATION - University of Central Florida - College of Engineering, 12760 Pegasus Dr, Orlando, FL 32816
NOTES - The bus will drop off the participants in front of the Harris Engineering Lab and then drive to the softball fields to wait in their lot.
UCF Harris Engineering Center  4328 Scorpius Street  Orlando FL 32816
Interactive map  https://map.ucf.edu/?show=116

8:15 AM

ACTIVITY - UCF Welcome
NOTES - Welcomed by the University of Central Florida Cheerleaders and their mascot Knightro
Guests pick up breakfast on their way into HEC 101 Conference Room
8:30 AM
ACTIVEITY - Welcome to ACE
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Kim Hurtault-Osborne - Executive Secretary for Integral Development – Organization of American States
• John Andersen - Deputy Assistant Secretary – International Trade Administration
LOCATION - UCF College of Engineering, 12760 Pegasus Dr, Orlando, FL 32816

8:40 AM
ACTIVEITY - Innovate Orlando
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Mayor Teresa Jacobs - Mayor of Orange County
NOTES - Wifi: UCF_Guest

8:50 AM
ACTIVEITY - The University of Central Florida
SPEAKERS/HOST
• President John Hitt - President - University of Central Florida

9:00 AM
ACTIVEITY - Lab Tours
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Lab Tours/Presentations 4 “Themes”: Limbitless, Entrepreneurship, Smart Cities, and Energy 20 Minutes per Location—15 Minute Presentation, 5 Minute Q&A. Allows 3 minutes to walk in between.
• Limbitless in TI Innovation Lab—Albert Manero
• Smart Cities in HEC 101—Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Aty
• Energy in Siemens Lab in HEC—Dr. Zhihua Qu, Dr. Wei Sun
NOTES - UCF is seeking partnership in exchange programs, funded research, online learning and other programmatic development from an international perspective is welcomed. UCF and CECS has significant potential in partnering internationally. Resources are being put forth to encourage more international exchange learning programs and UCF Global needs international partners to help enhance opportunities.
10:35 AM
ACTIVITY - Group Photo on Harris Engineering Center Stairs

10:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
NOTES - You will need to carry your passport or U.S. driver's license (for U.S. Citizens) at all times. Passports will be checked as you board for Lockheed. No Foreign Nationals in USG Vehicles.

11:00 AM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Lockheed Martin
LOCATION - Lockheed Martin - 100 Global Innovation Cir, Orlando, FL 32825
NOTES -
• Proceed to Lane #4 and stop at Security Station
• Proceed to Main Lobby Entrance (follow red arrows on map)
• Drop off visitors at Main Lobby
• Proceed to Visitor's Center to park and wait (follow red arrows on map)
• Once passengers are ready for pick up, depart Visitor's Center and proceed to Lane #4 again
• Proceed to Main Lobby Entrance for passenger pick up (follow red arrows on map)

11:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
NOTES - This is a highly secured and classified government contractor facility. You will need to carry your passport or U.S. driver's license (for U.S. Citizens) at all times. You may be asked to present your identification a few times while on site. The U.S. Government is providing you with a temporary security clearance to be in the facility (good for only 2 hours). You must stay with your group at all times. Please respect the sensitivity of the technology on site. No phones or photography are allowed. All phones need to be turned off and kept on the bus (USG phones only. USG may be asked to "locker phones"). All video equipment will need to be kept on the bus. All USG personnel will need to replace their name ACE name badge with their CAC cards.

You will be asked to show your passport or ID as you off load the bus.
11:15 AM
ACTIVITY  - Lockheed Martin – A Sim Story
SPEAKERS/HOST
• David Scott  – VP Business Development, LM TLS
• Lt. General Tom Baptiste  - President & CEO, National Center for Simulation (NCS)
LOCATION  - Lockheed Martin  - 100 Global Innovation Cir, Orlando, FL 32825

11:45AM
ACTIVITY  - VIP Access Tour of the Lockheed Martin Global & Training Logistics facility.
NOTES  - After opening remarks, the group will be divided into thirds (max 25 per group) and will rotate through activities which may include: (1) a tour of Innovation Demonstration Center; (2) demo; and (3) Prepar3D overview. All groups conclude at the same time and proceed to location where a boxed lunch will be served during closing discussions. The group will then depart for their next destination. We only have one hour; you cannot shift or leave your group due to security.

12:45 PM
ACTIVITY  - Load bus
NOTES  - Box lunch on bus

1:00 PM
ACTIVITY  - Depart to Medical City
LOCATION  -GuideWell Innovation Center  - 6555 Sanger Rd,  Orlando, FL 32827
NOTES  - Groups assigned as you walk in.

1:30 PM
ACTIVITY  - Unload bus
1:35 PM
ACTIVITY - Presentation in the Innovation Theater

SPEAKERS/HOST

- **Gloria Caulfield** – VP of Strategic Alliances - Tavistock
- **Ted Talks:**
  - Leslie Hielema - Head of Transformational Innovation - Guidewell Innovation
  - Dr. Haru Okuda - National Medical Director for Veterans Health Administration
  - Barry Brockway - Director of Operations, GuideWell Innovation

LOCATION - Innovation Theatre GuideWell Innovation Center - 6555 Sanger Rd, Orlando, FL 32827
NOTES - Park in back. Enter in main entrance. Call Chris Clark on depart 404-321-5866
Wifi: GWguest

2:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Tour: Guidewell Innovation Center

3:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

3:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Tour of Medical City by bus

3:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Depart to BRIDG

3:50 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
4:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Panel Discussion & Tour: BRIDG Product demonstrations of Photon X

SPEAKERS/HOST
Moderator:
- Ed Schons – Florida High Tech Corridor
- Chester Kennedy - CEO, BRIDG
- Don Fisher – Osceola County Manager
- Blair Barbour - CEO, Photon X
- Dr. Elizabeth A. Klonoff, Ph.D., ABPP - Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies University of Central Florida

LOCATION - BRIDG 200 NeoCity Way, Kissimmee, FL 34744
NOTES - Surface parking.
Wifi: BRIDG Guest or BRIDG_GUEST

5:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

5:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Depart to Melbourne

6:45 PM
ACTIVITY - Arrive in Melbourne, unload bus
LOCATION - Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL 32901

7:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Dinner on your own
LOCATION - Note: There is a Supermarket within walking distance of the hotel for those who need any personal items.
SPACE COAST  TUESDAY DECEMBER 5, 2017

7:00AM

ACTIVITY - Check out
NOTES- Attire for the day: Business or Business Casual (Please wear close toes shoes. No large heels due to safety). Breakfast is on your own. Concierge lounge will have coffee, etc. All the delegation will be on the “Executive Floor” of the hotel.

7:15 AM

ACTIVITY - Load bus

SPEAKERS/HOST
• Dr. Tristan Fiedler – Associate Vice President for Research, FIT
• Trudy McCarthy - Senior Director of Communication and Marketing, EDC Space Coast

LOCATION - Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, 200 Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL 32901

7:30 AM

ACTIVITY - Depart

7:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Bus tour of the Florida Institute of Technology’s FIT Aviation Flight Training & Research Center and drive through of the FIT CAMPUS

SPEAKERS/HOST
• Dr Korhan Oyman – Dean, Florida Institute of Technology College of Aeronautics
• Dr Isaac Silver - Asst. Dean of Flight Operations & Deputy Executive Director FIT Aviation LLC

LOCATION - Florida Institute of Technology, 150 W University Blvd, Melbourne 32901 321-674-7723
poc: Dr Tristan Fiedler fiedler@fit.edu 321-674-7723

NOTES - ACE Florida advances Florida Tech goals by creating new international partners with the opportunity to educate students in the latest high demand STEM disciplines worldwide. Florida Tech, a Tier 1 Best National University, is among the top 200 4-yr colleges & universities of nearly 1400 ranked by US News & World Report. Numerous research institutes led by world-class faculty provide global education and research opportunities. We seek to continue to lead the world in global STEM education and to find the right partners among the ACE participants to join us! Partnerships in funded research, online education with this global leader in research & training are welcome, so please contact Dr. Tristan Fiedler on 321-674-7723 or fiedler@fit.edu
8:30 AM

ACTIVITY - Arrive and unload bus at FIT CAMID
NOTES- CAMID has ample parking immediately east of pedestrian entrance way.

8:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Welcome by Economic Development Council & Elected Officials Presentations by Florida Tech and others, Tour of Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID)

SPEAKERS/HOST
• Captain Winston E. Scott – Immediate Past Chair, Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast, and Senior Vice President for External Relations and Economic Development, Florida Institute of Technology
• Mayor William Capote - City of Palm Bay
• Dr. S. Ann Becker - Senior Vice President for Research, FIT
• Dr. Michael Grieves - Executive Director, Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design
• Mr. Rob Salonen - Director, Global Business Development, FIT

LOCATION - FIT CAMID, 2495 Palm Bay Rd NE, Palm Bay, Florida 32905

9:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Larsen Motor Sports Development Program

SPEAKERS/HOST
• Mr. Chris Larsen – Co-Founder & Head Chief, Larson Motorsports
• Mrs. Elaine Larsen – Co-Founder & Jet Dragster Champion Driver

10:00 AM

ACTIVITY - Load bus
NOTES- 1 Canaveral Port Authority representative and 1 EDC staff member will accompany the delegates on the drive to Port Canaveral. Call Diane (321)431-1104

10:15 AM

ACTIVITY - Wellness Break and Travel to Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 1
NOTES- Enjoy the drive up the famous US A1A!
11:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 1 9050 Discovery Place, Port Canaveral, FL 32920
NOTES - Park next to the terminal, park will be marked.

11:20 AM
ACTIVITY - Group Photo

11:35 AM
ACTIVITY - Lunch & Welcome by Port Leadership  Port Presentation
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Tom Weinberg – Chairman, Canaveral Port Authority
NOTES - The Port is looking for new international partners for research, technology, and development.

12:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Presentation by Port CEO and ‘virtual’ tour of the Port
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Captain John W. Murray – Chief Executive Officer, Port Canaveral

1:10 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

1:25 PM
ACTIVITY - Depart for Exploration Tower
LOCATION - Exploration Tower, 670 Dave Nisbet Dr, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

1:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus and free time to explore Exploration Tower, the Port, visit gift shops, take photos from the roof, and enjoy the scenery.
2:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

2:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to NASA - Kennedy Space Center
NOTES - NASA is looking for new partners for testing of equipment, space research, launch sites, and other scientific partnerships.

3:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload Bus and pass through security
LOCATION - Exploration Tower, 670 Dave Nisbet Dr, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920
- Proceed to flagpole (outside main entrance) to meet DN Communicator
- Proceed through magnetometers at Main Entrance and board Visitor Complex bus in Debus 1 lot
- Photography will be allowed except in some sensitive areas.
- Please have your passport or driver’s license (for US Citizens) on you at all times.
- All USG personnel will need to replace their name ACE name badge with their CAC cards.
KSCVC Free WIFI

3:30 PM
ACTIVITY - VIP Bus Tour of NASA’s KSC Campus and Complex
SPEAKERS/HOST
- Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex
LOCATION - KSC, SR 405, Kennedy Space Ctr, FL 32899

4:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Return to KSC Visitor Complex
LOCATION - LC 39 area and unload at Camera A/B stop for photo opportunity

4:45 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus, Walk to Debus Center & Wellness Break
5:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Briefing by NASA KSC Senior Leadership
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Mr. Tom Engler, Director – Center Planning and Development Directorate, Kennedy Space Center
LOCATION - Astronaut Encounter Theater

5:45 PM
ACTIVITY - Up Close look at Space Shuttle Atlantis

6:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

6:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Depart NASA

8:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Arrive Palm Coast
LOCATION - Hammock Beach Resort Hammock Beach 200 Ocean Crest Drive Palm Coast, FL 32137
NOTES - Dinner on your own. The Hammock Beach resort is home to seven dining options. From pool side dining to ocean front dining, there is something for everyone at Hammock Beach.
PALM COAST, ST. AUGUSTINE, AND GAINESVILLE WEEKDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

6:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Check out of Hotel and Load Bus

SPEAKERS/HOST

- Welcome - County Commissioner Donald O'Brien
- Helga van Eckert – Economic Development Director - Flagler Economic Development

LOCATION - Hammock Beach Resort Hammock Beach 200 Ocean Crest Drive Palm Coast, FL 32137

NOTES: Attire for the day: Business or Business Casual. Please wear closed toes shoes with no heels.

7:00 AM

ACTIVITY - Depart

LOCATION - Sea Ray Boats Palm Coast Plant 100 Sea Ray Drive Flagler Beach, FL 32136

NOTES - SeaRay safety briefing while on bus and break into four groups.

7:30 AM

ACTIVITY - Unload bus

7:35 AM

ACTIVITY - Tour of SeaRay Boats

SPEAKERS/HOST

- Tim Singly – SeaRay Boats, General Manager

NOTES - Special Considerations - closed-toe shoes, no heels, no photos or videos until outside.

8:20 AM

ACTIVITY - Group Photo on SeaRay Boats Dock

8:30 AM

ACTIVITY - Load Bus and Depart
8:45 AM

ACTIVITY - Arrive Flagler Palm Coast High School and Welcome
SPEAKERS/HOST
   Opening:
   • Helga van Eckert – Economic Development Director - Flagler Economic Development
   Welcome:
   • Donald O’Brien – County Commissioner
   Program Introduction:
   • James Tager – Superintendent Flagler Schools

LOCATION - Flagler Palm Coast High School  5500 FL-100, Palm Coast, FL 32164
NOTES - Flagler County and the Flagler Schools are looking to establish international networks for businesses and students to foster collaboration, develop new partnerships to share best practices and to promote our community to businesses looking to establish U.S. headquarters and/or manufacturing facilities.
• Brunch served by students (fruit, cheese, pastry, croissant, tea, coffee, water)
• Student Ambassadors at tables (students will have ambassador shirts) (Elementary, middle and high school students)
• Business representatives can also be at Tables

9:15 AM

ACTIVITY - Interactive Student Experience
SPEAKERS/HOST
   Break into 3 Groups for 25-Minute Rotations
   • Interactive Experience - Flagship Showcase Booths in Gym
   • Interactive Experience - Labs (fire academy & aerospace lab)
   • Interactive Experience - i3 Flagship presentation and Q&A in the learning commons

10:25 AM

ACTIVITY - Closing Remarks
SPEAKERS/HOST
   • Donald O’Brien – County Commissioner Closing Remarks
   • Lynette Shott – Executive Director- Flagler Schools
10:50 AM
ACTIVITY - Group Photo with Students

11:00 AM
ACTIVITY - Depart for St Augustine
SPEAKERS/HOST
   ST. Augustine CityManager
   • John Regan – will be on the bus

12:05 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus

12:10 PM
ACTIVITY - Meet in front of Castillo de San Marcos for a tour & Photo
SPEAKERS/HOST
   • Gordon Wilson – Superintendent for the Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas
LOCATION - 1 S Castillo Dr, St. Augustine, FL 32084
NOTES - The City of St. Augustine wants the group to have a pleasant, informative visit showcasing our most famous tourist attraction and treasured structure and the inventive way our private industry works to conserve our historic past and provide successful commercial ventures. The City would love to partner with other historical cities for sister cities, trade cities, and other economic development opportunities.

12:55 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

1:05 PM
ACTIVITY - Driving through St. Augustine down King Street
SPEAKERS/HOST
   • Tour notes with John Regan
1:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus at St. Augustine Distillery
LOCATION - 112 Riberia St, St. Augustine, FL 32084
NOTES - The tour bus will unload participants at the St. Augustine Distillery (located at 112 Riberia St.) and then travel approx. 2 miles south on Riberia to the Willie Galimore Center (located at 399 Riberia St.). It is a community center and nothing is scheduled for that day

1:20 PM
ACTIVITY - Tour of St. Augustine Distillery
SPEAKERS/HOST
  • Phil McDaniel – Owner, St. Augustine Distillery
LOCATION - 1 S Castillo Dr, St. Augustine, FL 32084
NOTES - 112 Riberia St, St. Augustine, FL 32084

2:05 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus (lunch on bus)

2:20 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Gainesville

4:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus at New Engineering Building (NEB100) 1064 Center Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
4:30 PM
ACTIVITY - University of Florida New Engineering Building
SPEAKERS/HOST
University of Florida
Welcome:
• Dr. W. Kent Fuchs – President, University of Florida
  Powering the New Engineer.
• Erik Sander – Exec Dir., Florida Engineering Experiment Station
  Student Panel Pi Tau Sigma (Mechanical Engineering Honor Society)
University of Florida Alumni Relations:
• Matthew Hodge – Senior AVP, Development/Interim Executive Director, UF Alumni Association
LOCATION - 1064 Center Dr, Gainesville, FL 32611
NOTES - 112 Riberia St, St. Augustine, FL 32084

6:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Group Photo with real Florida Gators

6:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

6:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Gainesville: Cade Museum, Depot Park
LOCATION - 811 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601

7:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
7:15 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Farm-to-table dinner and Welcome Reception at the Cade Museum for Creativity and Innovation

**SPEAKERS/HOST**
- The Cade Museum
- Welcome:
  - **Rory P. Causseaux** – P.E., CEO of CHW Professional Consultants and 2017 Chair, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
  - **Mayor Lauren Poe** – Mayor City of Gainesville
- **Greetings:**
  - **Lee Pinkoson** – Chair, Alachua County Commission
- **Remarks:**
  - **Phoebe Miles** – Board President and CEO Cade Museum
  - **Interactive Audience Experience**
  - **Dinner Speaker:**
  - **Dr. Jack M. Payne** – Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

**LOCATION** - 811 S Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601

**NOTES** - Visitor Parking adjacent to Cade Museum with designated bus parking spaces. Access to parking lot from South Main Street (at 811 South Main Street, Gainesville 32601) IFAS would benefit greatly from the new connection and global exposure. Supporting the work of agriculture, rural development, addressing challenges through existing or potential technologies.

8:45 PM

**ACTIVITY** - Travel to hotel

**LOCATION** - Country Inn & Suites 4015 SW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32608
7:00AM
ACTIVITY - Early Breakfast available at the hotel
LOCATION - Country Inn & Suites 4015 SW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL 32608

7:30 AM
ACTIVITY - Check out and load bus
NOTES - Attire for the day:
Business or Business Casual

7:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Depart to Santa Fe College Fine Arts Center
LOCATION - Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall - 3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606
NOTES - In 2015, Santa Fe Community College was rated #1 in the nation.
-Visitor Parking Lot #3 is adjacent to Fine Arts Hall main entrance, access from NW 83rd Street

8:00 AM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus

8:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Presentation of Santa Fe College
SPEAKERS/HOST
Santa Fe College
Welcome:
• Dr. Jackson Sasser – President Santa Fe College
Brief Remarks:
• Dennis Alvord – Dennis Alvord, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce – Economic Development Administration.
• Dug Jones – Associate Vice President, Economic Development, Center for Innovation and Economic Development (CIED)
• John McNeely – Associate Vice President, Career and Technical Programs
LOCATION - Santa Fe Fine Arts Center - 3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606
NOTES - Santa Fe College would benefit from the ACE 8 Tour through expanded international networks for students, faculty, and partners to create a new network of innovation. Light breakfast also available.
9:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Load bus

9:30 AM
ACTIVITY - Depart for Innovation Square

9:50 AM
ACTIVITY - Off load bus
LOCATION - Innovation Square:
Florida Innovation Hub – 747 Southwest 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601
NOTES - Reserved Spaces will be marked

10:05 AM
ACTIVITY - Tour of Innovation Square
SPEAKERS/HOST
University of Florida Innovation
Welcome:
• Mark Long – Director of Incubation Services
Welcome:
• Jim O’Connell – Asst. VP of Technology Commercialization & Director of Technology Transfer
Tours: Innovation Hub and Infinity Hall
Dug Jones
Speaker and Panel (at 720 Building)
• Lee Nelson – Director, UF Office of Real Estate; UF Strategic Development Plan
Panel – “The Role of Women in Entrepreneurship”
• Kathleen Sohar – Asst. Director UF Innovation Hub and Co-Founder, Empowering Women in Technology Start-ups (EWITS)
• Kristin Haffert – Founder, Mine the Gap
• Antonietta Restuccia - Doctoral Student Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida

LOCATION - Innovation District Florida Innovation Hub – 747 Southwest 2nd Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601
NOTES - UF Innovation Hub, Infinity Hall and 720 Building (three locations in Innovation Square)

11:50 AM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
12:05 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Progress Park

12:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus at Sid Martin Biotech Incubator

12:40 PM
ACTIVITY - Remarks at Sid Martin Biotech Incubator

SPEAKERS/HOST
Welcome:
• Mark Long – Director of Incubation Services
Brief Remarks:
• Dennis Alvord – Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce – Economic Development Administration

LOCATION - Sid Martin Biotech Incubator - 12085 Research Drive, Alachua, Florida 32615
NOTES - Bus passengers exit at the Corner of Research Drive and Progress Boulevard and proceed to Sid Martin Building through walkway. Bus will proceed on Progress Boulevard to Technology Avenue and enter loading area of the institute. Government vehicles can access visitor parking lot from Research Drive entrance.

1:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Load Bus

SPEAKERS/HOST
• Merrie Shaw – Asst. Director, Sid Martin Incubator

1:05 PM
ACTIVITY - Narrated bus tour of Progress Park

LOCATION - Progress Park Driving Tour on Bus

1:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload Bus
NOON
ACTIVITY - Lunch
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Lunch at The Perry Center
LOCATION - Santa Fe College (Perry Center for Emerging Technologies) - 14180 NW 119th Terrace, Alachua, FL 32615

2:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Nanotherapeutics and Santa Fe College Center for Emerging Technologies
SPEAKERS/HOST
Welcome to Perry Center:
• Eileen Monck – Academic Director
  The Perry Center for Emerging Technologies
• Gary Ascani – Director, Corporate Relations Ology Bioservices (formerly Nanotherapeutics) Includes a video presentation
  Panel Discussion
  The Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research – Dr. Jackson Streeter, MD
  Closing Remarks
• Susan Davenport – President and CEO Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce
NOTES - The Perry Center showcases local talent growth and engages students of various ages with emerging technology and markets. This positions Greater Gainesville to be well equipped with experienced talent as the world continues to globalize its technology. The Perry Center will showcase its technological capacity while promoting their own research and development to diverse international markets.

3:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus and depart
SPEAKERS/HOST
• Cristina L. Paredes – Deputy Director of Economic Vitality, Tallahassee and Leon County

4:50 PM
ACTIVITY - Arrive at Busy Bee (rest stop)
LOCATION - Busy Bee, 6458 US-129, Live Oak, FL 32060
NOTES - Short rest stop at one of the iconic roadside rest stops in America
5:15 PM  
**ACTIVITY** - Load bus

**5:25 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Depart for Tallahassee

**7:00 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Arrive in Tallahassee, unload bus  
**LOCATION** - University Center Club, Florida State University, 403 Stadium Drive, Building B, Tallahassee, FL 32306

**7:15 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Welcome to Tallahassee-Leon County: Reception, networking, and conversation  
**SPEAKERS/HOST**  
Welcome Remarks:
- **Commissioner Kristin Dozier** – Leon County
- **Vincent S. Long** – Leon County
- **Reese Good** – City of Tallahassee
- **Commissioner Curtis Richardson** – City of Tallahassee
- **Don Farr** – Florida State University Dedman School of Hospitality  
**LOCATION** - University Center Club, Florida State University, 403 Stadium Drive, Building B, Tallahassee, FL 32306

**9:15 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Load bus for Hotel Duval  
**LOCATION** - Hotel Duval, 415 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

**9:45 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - OPTIONAL: Evening placemaking tour of Gaines Street Corridor as well as College Town and opportunity to sample items from local entrepreneurs  
**LOCATION** - See the famous nightlight of Tallahassee. Meet trolley at Hotel Duval.  
**NOTES** - Trolley goes back to hotel at 11pm and midnight. Please bring your ID.
TALLAHASSEE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

7:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Networking
SPEAKERS/HOST
   Welcome:
      • Cristina Paredes – Tallahassee – Leon County Office of Economic Vitality
LOCATION - Opal Room, Hotel Duval, 415 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301
NOTES - Coffee and donuts will be provided. Attire for the day: Business or Business Casual. Please wear comfortable closed toe shoes and slacks.

7:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Panel discussion on risk management and entrepreneurship
SPEAKERS/HOST
   • Susan Fiorito – Director of Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship (Moderator)
   Participants:
      • Mark Powell – PhD, RMS/H-Wind
      • Ed Mansouri – WeatherSTEM
      • Ryan Truchelot – PhD, Weather Tiger
      • David Zierden – State Climatologist, COAPS
LOCATION - Opal Room, Hotel Duval, 415 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

8:30 AM
ACTIVITY - Peer to Peer Networking

8:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
LOCATION - Hotel Duval, 415 N. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301
9:00 AM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Florida A&M University
LOCATION - FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication's Lecture Hall #2002, 510 Orr Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32307

9:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication's Lecture Hall #2002, 510 Orr Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32307

9:40 AM
ACTIVITY - Panel discussion on minorities and entrepreneurship.
SPEAKERS/HOST
- Mayor Andrew Gillium – City of Tallahassee
  Welcome to Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
- Larry Robinson - President of Florida A&M University
  Overview of Florida A&M University Innovation
- Tim Moore – Vice President of Research at Florida A&M University
  Panel discussion on “Minorities and Entrepreneurship,” moderated
- Heidi Otway – SalterMitchell
- Kimberly Moore – Tallahassee Community College Vice President for Workforce Development and Economic Vitality Leadership Council Vice Chair
- Dominick Ard’is – The ACT House
- Jodi Chase – FullScaleNANO
- Eduardo Gonzalez Louniet – Founder of UberOps
- Keith Bowers – Florida A&M University Florida Small Business Development Center

LOCATION - FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication's Lecture Hall #2002, 510 Orr Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32307

10:20 AM
ACTIVITY - Peer to Peer Networking
10:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
LOCATION - FAMU School of Journalism and Graphic Communication’s Lecture Hall #2002, 510 Orr Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32307

11:00 AM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310

11:15 AM
ACTIVITY - Travel to MagLab
SPEAKERS/HOST
   Introduction to Innovation Park
   • Ron Miller
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310

11:30 AM
ACTIVITY - TED Talk: SciGirls Summer Camp and SciGirls Coding Camp
SPEAKERS/HOST
   Introduction:
   • Lila Jaber - founder of Women in Energy (5 mins)
Speakers:
   • Roxanne Hughes - PhD, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
   • Kim Kelling - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
   • Charmane Caldwell - PhD, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310
11:55 AM
ACTIVITY - Lunch and panel discussion: public/private partnerships, university commercialization, global reach
SPEAKERS/HOST
Panelists include:
• Jeff Whalen - FullScaleNANO
• Lawrence Tinker - Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research
• Al Latimer - Tallahassee – Leon County Office of Economic Vitality
• David Teek - Office of Technology Transfer and Export Control, Florida A&M University
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310
NOTES - Lunch is catered by Chef Shac, who recently won the Chef competition on the TV Show “Chopped”.

1:00 PM
ACTIVITY - MagLab Tour
SPEAKERS/HOST
Participants divided into groups for MagLab (tracks I and II), then switch.
Tour Guides/Presenters:
• David Larbalestier - PhD National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
• Kristin Roberts - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
• Tim Cross - PhD National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
• Chris Hendrickson - PhD National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
• Tom Painter - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
• Lance Cooley - PhD National High Magnetic Field Laboratory
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310
NOTES - Closed-toe shoes and slacks are required to access the lab.
The National Mag Lab is looking for new research and commercialization partners.
Divided up into groups.

2:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
LOCATION - National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, 1800 E. Paul Dirac Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32310
2:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Danfoss
SPEAKERS/HOST
  • Dave Ramsay - Chair of Innovation Park Board
LOCATION - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, 1769 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32310

2:20 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, 1769 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32310

2:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Tour of Danfoss
SPEAKERS/HOST
  Danfoss leadership:
  • Jose Alvares - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors
  • Kevin Gehrke - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors
  • Ken Koehler - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors
  • Eric Pearce - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors
  • Greg Handzel - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors
LOCATION - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, 1769 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32310
NOTES - Closed-toe shoes and slacks are required to access the lab.
Same groups as MagLab
Restricted videography and photography in spots

3:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
LOCATION - Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, 1769 E. Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32310

3:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion
LOCATION - FCAAP, 2003 Levy Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310
3:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - FCAAP, 2003 Levy Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310

2:15 PM
ACTIVITY - VIP Access to the Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion – Polysonic Wind Tunnel and Center for Intelligent Systems, Control, and Robotics
SPEAKERS/HOST
  • Farrukh Alvi - PhD, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
LOCATION - FCAAP, 2003 Levy Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310
NOTES - Closed-toe shoes and slacks are required to access the lab.

4:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Load bus
LOCATION - FCAAP, 2003 Levy Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32310

4:30 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to Cascades Park
SPEAKERS/HOST
  • Steve Evans - IBM (Retired) and Chair of Economic Vitality Leadership Council
LOCATION - Cascades Park, 1001 S. Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

4:45 PM
ACTIVITY - Unload bus
LOCATION - Cascades Park, 1001 S. Gadsden St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

5:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Wellness Break
LOCATION - Cascades Park, 1001 S. Gadsden St., Tallahassee, FL 32301
NOTES - Coffee, Cocoa, and Cookies made by Catalina Café, a local start up coffee roast.
**5:15 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Tour of Cascades Park and discussion: public health and public infrastructure investments  
**SPEAKERS/HOST**  
Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency Staff:  
- **Benjamin H. Pingree** - Department of Planning, Land Use, and Community Enhancement  
- **Charles Hargraves** - Blueprint  
- **Autumn Calder** - Blueprint  
- **Megan Doherty** - Blueprint  
- **Susan Emmanuel** - Blueprint  
**LOCATION** - Cascades Park, 1001 S. Gadsden St., Tallahassee, FL 32301  
**NOTES** - Attendees will be divided into small groups for a tour of the award-winning Cascades Park led by Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency staff. During the tour, participants will discuss 1) how public dollars ignite private investment and 2) public health (bikeability and walkability, recreation, toxin remediation via brownfield conversion, wastewater reduction and stormwater treatment, reduction of air contaminants through green space, etc.)

**6:00 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Load bus  
**LOCATION** - Cascades Park, 1001 S. Gadsden St., Tallahassee, FL 32301

**6:15 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Travel to Florida’s Historic Capitol  
**LOCATION** - Florida’s Historic Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

**6:20 PM**  
**ACTIVITY** - Unload bus  
**LOCATION** - Florida’s Historic Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399  
**NOTES** - Personally escorted by the famous FAMU Marching 100. The Marching 100 is the official name of the marching band at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida. Since its inception, the band has been credited for 30 innovative techniques which have become standard operating procedures for many high school and collegiate marching band programs. The first band at FAMU was organized in 1892.
6:30 PM
ACTIVITY - FAMU Marching Band

6:45 PM
ACTIVITY - Dinner and Closing Ceremony
SPEAKERS/HOST
Remarks from Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Secretary Cissy Proctor
Call to Action:
• Craig Buerstatte - Acting Director and Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
Handoff:
• Luis Porto - Senior Advisor for Strategy and Organizational Development, Organization of American States
• Stefan Schnorr - Director General, Digital and Innovation Policy, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany
• Ole Johann Janssen - Director, Innovation and Technology Policy, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany
• Les Abelson - North America Director Israel Innovation
• Lior Hayat - Israeli Consul General
• Nikolai Ziegler - Policy Officer, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany
LOCATION - Senate Chambers and the Rotunda
Florida's Historic Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

8:15 PM
ACTIVITY - Closing Photo
LOCATION - Front Steps, Florida's Historic Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399

8:25 PM
ACTIVITY - Travel to hotel
LOCATION - Hotel Duval, 415 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301

9:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Evening cultural tour of Railroad Art Park and opportunity to sample items from local entrepreneurs.
LOCATION - Meet trolley at Hotel Duval.
NOTES - Trolley goes back to hotel at 10:15PM and 11:30pm. Please bring your ID.
TALLAHASSEE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

8:30 AM
ACTIVITY - Load Bus (Optional)
LOCATION - Hotel Duval, 415 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301
NOTES - For those flying out of Orlando the bus will return to Orlando International Airport. Breakfast on your own.

8:45 AM
ACTIVITY - Depart for Orlando International Airport

1:00 PM
ACTIVITY - Arrive at Orlando International Airport
3
THE 8th
ACE ROUTE
ORANGE COUNTY
Orange County, Florida, is comprised of 13 municipalities, with the City of Orlando the largest, and serves as home to 1.2 million residents. The region has become a place in which people not only want to live and raise a family, but also do business. Forbes ranked Orlando the No. 1 region for job growth and one of the fastest growing cities in the nation. Highlighting the Dr. Phillips Center, SunRail, the nation’s newest commuter rail system, and the vibrant, developing food scene, the New York Times named Orlando No. 13 of 52 Places to go in 2015. U.S. News & World Report recognized the region as one of the Best Places to Travel in 2015 and one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live in the United States in 2016. Forbes also ranked Orlando as one of the nation’s Best Cities to Buy Housing, third for the Best Big Cities for Jobs and one of the top 10 Cities that Americans Are Moving to Right Now.

Orlando, is one of the most recognized cities in the world largely because of its thriving tourism and hospitality industry. However, there is much more to the region than its theme parks and attractions. In addition to being in close proximity to the east coast, Orlando is home to a cluster of booming industries, including the life sciences, innovative technologies, advanced manufacturing and simulation. This prime location, in addition to its diverse concentration of leading industries, makes it an ideal place for investment opportunities.

With a diverse population that drives local and international entrepreneurship, Orange County is a perfect example of a region committed to global connectivity, innovation and to fostering economic opportunity. According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, by the end of 2016 the unemployment rate was a mere 4.2% and the leisure/hospitality and professional/business services industries housed the largest percent of jobs (total of 37%) out of all the industries. Many of these popular industries house companies such as Walt Disney World Resorts, Lockheed Martin, Texas Instruments Innovation Lab, Guidewell Innovation Center and BRIDG.

Orlando is also home to top higher education institutions which have played an integral role in providing and funding centers and innovation labs in which important areas of study are not only explored to great lengths, but also further developed. At the forefront of this innovation and groundbreaking research is one the nation’s leading schools, the University of Central Florida.

TOURISM
Orlando and Orange County are best known around the globe as a top tourist destination welcoming 68 million visitors in 2016 alone. With our top notch theme parks and attractions, entertainment options, fine dining, world class airport and hotels, and stunning natural parks there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Tourism is a leading industry throughout the region, representing approximately one-third of the local economy and accounting for tens of thousands of jobs.

ACE tour participants will fly into the world class Orlando International Airport and start their experience with the opportunity not only to visit, but also go behind the scenes of a theme park giant that Orlando has become synonymous with — Walt Disney World. Delegates will get a tour of the popular Seven Dwarfs Mine Train ride, explore the Magic Kingdom and receive an overview of how Disney uses simulation technology throughout their parks.

Beyond its theme parks and attractions, major sporting events and their nationally recognized sports teams also bring visitors year round. Orange County is home to the NBA’s Orlando Magic and has become widely known as the soccer capital of the south with a new stadium for their Major League Soccer franchises, the Orlando City Soccer Club and Orlando Pride. The region also serves as host to teams, bowl games, and other major sports events from across the nation at top notch facilities including the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, Camping World Stadium, the Amway Arena and the Orange County Convention Center, which is the second largest in the U.S.

TECHNOLOGY
Since its inception in 1963, UCF has transformed from a small commuter school into the second largest university in the nation with strong community partnerships throughout the region and programs that allows students to gain vital exposure into their areas of study. Among the many academic opportunities offered by UCF are study abroad programs which immerse students in the language and culture, while also opening the doors to learning and conducting research with 98 institutions in 36 countries.
Additionally, UCF is a research leader in a vast array of areas that are thriving locally, including optics and lasers, modeling and simulation, and video game design. ACE participants will visit UCF’s College of Engineering, home to four labs strategically designed to turn creative ideas into marketable innovations. These labs are not only home to major companies like Texas Instruments and the Harris Corporation, but are also available for students to learn about the creativity in the innovation process. Attendees will receive a formal ACE welcome from delegates and learn about public/private partnerships related to UCF’s engineering and innovation, as well as how those partnerships translate into opportunities for students after graduation.

LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDTECH
One of the popular areas of Orange County that is attracting residents and innovation-driven businesses is Lake Nona, which has been labeled “a community of and for the future.” Lake Nona is home to Medical City and some of the nation’s leading hospitals, research institutions and life science companies. Pioneering institutions in Medical City are already forming networks and synergies, which are transforming Orlando into a global destination for health care, research and medical education, and creating an environment in which clusters of booming industries can thrive, including Life Sciences & Healthcare, Innovative Technologies, Advanced Manufacturing, Corporate Headquarters and Simulation, Aerospace & Defense.

Participants will also visit the Guidewell Innovation Center. This intellectual hub opened in a coordinated fashion with a collaborative mission, which was based on the proven theory that a cluster of healthcare and bioscience facilities in proximity to one another will accelerate innovation. There will be a panel discussion on Orlando’s fastest-growing, most forward-thinking and advanced master-planned community, Medical City at Lake Nona, and how it is becoming an innovative training hub for sports, life sciences, and professional services.

ACE participants will gain insight on how simulation training has become an integral and effective part of medical education and experience state-of-the-art simulation technologies, as well as how it’s adapted to different sectors/regions. Additionally, participants will learn how this environment has not only become successful, but also fosters collaboration, cooperation and partnership between academia, industry and government.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
The Central Florida portion of the tour will conclude in Osceola County where participants will visit BRIDG, the only advanced materials manufacturing development center focused on the integration of semiconductor-based processes and materials into future products like smart sensor and photonics devices.

Supported by Osceola County, UCF, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and others, BRIDG facilitates the connection between innovation and industry and is “Bridging the Innovation Development Gap” that makes commercialization possible.
As Mayor, she remains focused on maintaining Orange County's reputation as the world’s top tourism destination while simultaneously launching a new branding campaign, “Orlando. You Don’t Know the Half of It,” in order to publicize the region’s workforce and business sector capabilities in high tech, digital media and medical research, as well as its world class quality of life, including sports, recreational and performing arts venues.

Mayor Jacobs continues to be an advocate for small businesses in the community. To help ensure local entrepreneurs and businesses have the resources they need to be successful now and into the future, she has formed a strong partnership with the National Entrepreneurship Center (NEC). The NEC is an entrepreneurship hub that provides a single location where small businesses can access a variety of business resources, technology, research tools and more than 13 resident support organizations. Since inception, the NEC has coached and trained more than 100,000 businesses and facilitated over $150,000,000 in loans. The organization is nationally recognized as a center of excellence and innovation for the success of entrepreneurial growth through partnerships and collaboration.

Additionally, Mayor Jacobs is committed to growing international business opportunities through foreign direct investment and global trade. To facilitate global integration, Mayor Jacobs has fostered five international sister city agreements with Las Heras, Argentina; Quindio, Colombia; Hartva Brabant, Netherlands; Medellin, Colombia; and Taizhou, China.

In 2013, Mayor Jacobs played a vital role in the creation of the Central Florida International Trade Office (CFITO) in partnership with JPMorgan Chase and the NEC. CFITO’s purpose and priorities are to connect companies with regional trade experts, host international business delegations, conduct trade seminars, and facilitate data and research assistance. To date, CFITO has connected more than 1,000 inquiries, hosted 30 delegations and has provided 35 trade seminars.

Furthermore, Mayor Jacobs has a strong relationship with the more than 20 consuls who make up the Orlando Consular Corps. This valued group of leaders represents their respective countries, assist citizens and visitors who are also from their country and serve as the main point of contact for all trade, cultural and diplomatic relationships with their country and the local community.

In addition to fostering international trade opportunities, Mayor Jacobs wants the world to know that Orange County is the best place to live, work, and raise a family. She is a staunch advocate for citizen involvement, broadening the region’s innovation-driven economy by partnering with UCF and other institutions of higher learning, and leading far-reaching sustainability efforts to ensure that Orange County’s future will be healthy and prosperous. While working to achieve economic prosperity, she is also deeply committed

Mayor Teresa Jacobs
Mayor of Orange County

The citizens of Orange County elected Teresa Jacobs to serve as Mayor in November 2010 with 68 percent of the vote. She was re-elected without opposition in 2014 for another four-year term.

Known as a champion of ethics reform and a strong advocate for public participation in the governmental process, Mayor Jacobs has established a set of core values to guide County employees in their daily duties: professionalism, integrity, strong work ethic, innovation, fairness and accountability.

Before her election as Mayor, she served two terms as an Orange County Commissioner (2000 to 2008). Prior to holding public office, she was president of the Orange County Homeowners Association Alliance (an organization that represented approximately 100 neighborhoods) and enjoyed a successful nine-year career in banking.
Mayor Buddy Dyer
Mayor of Orlando

Buddy Dyer has served as Mayor of the City of Orlando since 2003, and from his first day in office, he has worked tirelessly to advance the community’s shared vision for Orlando as America’s 21st Century City. Under Mayor Dyer’s leadership and through strategic investments, Orlando is one of the nation’s fastest-growing cities and is the most visited destination in the country, hosting more than 65 million visitors each year. Mayor Dyer has defined Orlando as America’s new home for inclusiveness, opportunity and quality of life, with a strong focus on innovation, transportation, sustainability and government efficiency.

Committed to Inclusiveness
Mayor Dyer helped the community unite and heal following the June 12, 2016 Pulse tragedy that took the lives of 49 people and injured more than 50, vowing that Orlando would not be defined by one hateful act, but instead by responding with love and compassion. The unity was on display in the hours after the tragedy when residents waited for hours to donate blood, and later at vigils and memorials and as millions of dollars were raised to support victims’ families and survivors through the OneOrlando Fund. Throughout his tenure as Mayor, he has ensured that Orlando is a city that embraces diversity, promotes fairness and equality and is a welcoming, multicultural community. In 2015, Mayor Dyer presided at the historic Vowed and Proud wedding ceremony at City Hall when 44 same-sex couples were married, a year after Orlando added gender identity as a protected class in the City’s anti-discrimination code. Orlando’s longest-serving mayor, Mayor Dyer is dedicated to celebrating the community’s diversity throughout the year at annual cultural events, and also through workshops to foster ongoing engagement and conversation between residents and the City to further a culture of acceptability and understanding.

Creating a City of Opportunity
Since his first day in office, Mayor Dyer has strived to increase cooperation and partnership between Central Florida's many governments, its business and civic communities and its residents. The result of this effort is a new era of collaboration that has paved the way for a series of remarkable, transformational accomplishments for greater Orlando in a very short period of time and has set the city on course for a more prosperous future. That future includes a new University of Central Florida-Valencia College campus in Downtown
Orlando, which will open in 2019, anchoring the Creative Village innovation cluster and benefiting the entire region, bringing more than 7,500 students and a more than $200 million economic impact each year. The campus will also help young people, including those in the City’s successful youth programs, connect education to opportunity.

The accomplishments also include the opening of three community venues – the Amway Center, the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and Camping World Stadium. The venues, which have brought world-class events to Central Florida, even more international visitors to the region and enhanced the quality of life for residents, were part of Mayor Dyer’s engineering of one of the most remarkable downtown resurgences of anywhere in the country. Mayor Dyer has served as one of the region’s leading voices on ending homelessness, guiding the collaboration among jurisdictions, service providers and community groups. Veteran homelessness has been essentially eliminated and a 2016 point-in-time census identified a one-year 23.6 percent decrease in the number of homeless individuals in the region.

Developing a Destination for Innovation
Mayor Dyer has shaped Orlando into a desirable place to live, work, learn and play. Orlando added more jobs than any other metropolitan area in the country in 2015 and Forbes ranked Orlando No. 2 nationally as the best place to buy real estate, No. 3 in job growth and No. 4 as the happiest place to work. Mayor Dyer is leading the efforts to diversify Central Florida’s economy and create a new breed of high-tech, high-wage careers for residents in cutting-edge industries such as digital media, life sciences and biotechnology, modeling, simulation and training and aviation and aerospace. Innovation is on display at the Lake Nona Medical City, which is home to some of the nation’s leading hospitals, universities, research institutions and health and science companies. A growing destination for startups and young entrepreneurs, Downtown Orlando’s tech scene is thriving.

Keeping Orlando Moving and Green
Under Orlando’s strong-mayor form of government, Mayor Dyer serves as the City’s chief executive and also helps govern and oversee the operations and growth of its city-owned utility, OUC, and the Orlando International and Executive Airports. Mayor Dyer is an advocate for the expansion of public transit and for creating an environmentally sustainable city. Successes under Mayor Dyer’s leadership include SunRail, Central Florida’s first commuter rail system which launched in 2014, the introduction of bike share and a 140 percent increase in bike lane mileage since 2003. Orlando has worked to become one of the most sustainable cities in the country. Through recycling, composting, energy efficiency and the planting of thousands of trees, the City is conserving more and wasting less in order to create a better future for generations to come.

Serving Efficiently
Mayor Dyer’s commitment to bolstering police protection helped bring about the most dramatic reduction in crime in Orlando history. This focus on safety has also helped make the Orlando Fire Department one of the elite departments in the entire country with international accreditation. Under Mayor Dyer’s leadership, the City is creating a Digital City Hall which allows business owners, residents and visitors to access City services and Orlando Police Department data via the internet.

Dedicated to Family
Mayor Dyer was born in Orlando and raised in nearby Kissimmee. He and his wife Karen, an attorney, have two sons, Trey and Drew. Prior to being Mayor, he served for a decade in the Florida Senate. His colleagues elected him as their Democratic Senate Leader, a position he held for three years. Mayor Dyer earned his undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Brown University and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Florida College of Law. Before he chose to serve in public office, Mayor Dyer worked as an environmental engineer.
JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes
www.grandelakes.com
@JW_Orlando

Orlando, Grande Lakes. Located on 500 lush acres, our luxury hotel provides a quiet retreat, yet is a short distance away from Orlando's most exciting attractions. Take advantage of our shuttle service to Walt Disney World®, SeaWorld® and Universal Orlando®. Recharge in our elegant rooms and suites which offer luxury bedding, marble bathrooms, 24-hour room service and internet-ready TVs. Resort dining options include farm-to-table fare at Whisper Creek Farm: The Kitchen, as well as sushi and Italian cuisine. Perfect your swing at our 18-hole golf course, spoil yourself with a spa treatment or relax by the pool and soak up the Florida sun. Children of all ages will be thrilled with our lazy river; Grande Lakes Sports features a bike trail and more. Those planning an Orlando event have dozens of venues from which to choose - including the unique Whisper Creek Farm. Join us at the JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes.

Shayleen Noesi
Sales Manager
The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes
JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes
The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club and Spa
Phone: (305) 913-9591
Shayleen.Noesi@marriott.com
The National Entrepreneur Center
www.nationalec.org

Founded in 2003, through the collaborative efforts of Walt Disney World, Orange County Government and The University of Central Florida, the “shared facility” and collaborative approach to small business development has attracted national attention for its financial efficiencies and the ability to leverage the resources and skills of each resident organization. Additionally, the center provides easy access to these business assistance organizations for local entrepreneurs. Since inception, the resident organizations have trained and counseled Central Florida businesses in record numbers, while creating nationally recognized business development programs. This innovative approach to economic development through small business, known as “Main Street Gardening,” has been instrumental in earning Central Florida recognition from Entrepreneur Magazine and Biz Journals newspapers, as one of the best places in America to start or grow a small business.

Offerings at The National Entrepreneur Center:

- Free One-on-One Business Coaching
- Low-Cost Business Seminars
- Networking Events
- Onsite Business Lab
- Access to Business Resources
- Certification Assistance for Minority/ Women-Owned Businesses
- Connections to Procurement Assistance
- Publicity Opportunities
- CEO & Advisory Board Programs
- Export Assistance
- Training and Conference Room Rentals

Since Inception:

- 100,000+ businesses coached and trained
- $150,000,000+ in loans facilitated
- 13 individual organizations
- 1 location

The organizations located at the National Entrepreneur Center are:

- African American Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida (AACCCF)
- Asian American Chamber of Commerce
- Accion USA
- Central Florida Disability Chamber of Commerce (CFDC)
- Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC)
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando (HCCMO)
- National Association of Women Business Owners Orlando (NAWBO)
- National Black MBA Association, Inc. of Central Florida (NBMA)
- National Entrepreneur Center (NEC)
- Prospera
- SCORE, Counselors to America’s Small Business
- Small Business Development Center at UCF
- UCF Business Incubation Program (UCFBIP)
- US Dept. of Commerce (USDOC)
Jerry Ross
CEO,
National Entrepreneur Center

Jerry Ross is a life-long entrepreneur who has also held leadership positions with AT&T, Ohio Bell, and Goal Systems Software. His entrepreneurial ventures include Sky-Tracker, Semco Properties and Maverick Business Magazine.

In 2007, Jerry was selected in a nationwide search to become the Executive Director of the Disney Entrepreneur Center located in Orlando, Florida. He has been called a “virtual business incubator” by the Orlando Business Journal for his on-going advocacy for small businesses. The National Entrepreneur Center in Orlando, a national model for equipping small businesses, has held thousands of business seminars ranging from how to start your own business to strategic planning. Jerry is a member of the advisory boards for Florida’s District Export Council and Florida’s Innovation Caucus 2020, and he was recently named one of the “top 10 businessmen to watch in Central Florida” by the Orlando Business Journal. He resides in Orlando, with his wife Laura and his dog Major.

Jerry Ross | President
National Entrepreneur Center
3201 E. Colonial Drive, Suite A20,
Orlando, FL 32803
p: 407.420.4848
e: jerry@nationalec.org

Carol Palacio
Orange County Government
Economic Development
407 836-7314
Carol.Palacio@ocfl.net
www.orangecountyfl.net/
EconomicDevelopment/EconomicOutlook.aspx
Founded in 2013 with the generous support of Orange County and J.P. Morgan Chase, the Central Florida International Trade Office (CFITO) provides a single location to connect with a variety of resources to accelerate international trade in Central Florida! The Orlando region is home to over 2 million residents, and represents a vibrant business community and a climate that is bathed in sunshine. Our MSA receives over 68 million visitors per year, and is conveniently located in the “I-4 Corridor” between the Port of Tampa and Port Canaveral. Orlando is really in the center of it all!

The CFITO resides in the National Entrepreneur Center which houses a variety of business support organizations to serve the business community.

The CFITO office is designed to accelerate the access and activity for international traders in Central Florida including Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia counties. Metro Orlando is dedicated to strengthening Central Florida's position as a world-class center of international trade, in a region that already hosts the largest number of visitors in the United States. By accelerating access to local existing resources, providing relevant connections, highlighting the region's superior infrastructure, and emphasizing the collaborative approach to business development, the Central Florida International Trade Office is well positioned to engage international trade opportunities for both the importers and exporters who wish to do business in Central Florida.
With community support, Elizabeth has managed the CFITO since opening in 2014. The office conducts trade seminars, hosts inbound trade delegations, and connects inquiries to the appropriate regional trade organization in Central Florida.

Prior to joining the CFITO, Elizabeth worked for Walt Disney Parks & Resorts in Orlando, Florida and for a global consulting firm in Beijing, China helping foreign companies navigate entry into the Chinese market. She also studied the city government of Seoul, South Korea with the Seoul Metropolitan Government and studied the Irish Troubles in Cork, Ireland. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and in International Studies from the University of Iowa. She holds a Master of Science in International Relations from University College Dublin and an MBA from the University of Central Florida.
Visit Orlando
www.visitorlando.com

Visit Orlando is a 501(c)6 corporation that is the official destination organization for Orlando, the most visited destination in the U.S. They are a not-for-profit membership organization that works with more than 1,200 member businesses as well as local government.

Together with the member companies that make up the Central Florida's tourism community, they represent the area's leading industry responsible for $64 billion of annual economic impact.

Visit Orlando also is contracted by Orange County to brand, market and sell the Orlando destination globally and they pride themselves on providing the general public information on how they allocate these funds.

Elaine Blazys
Associate Vice President of Travel Industry Sales
Visit Orlando®
6277 Sea Harbor Drive, Suite 400
Orlando, FL 32821-8043
Tel: 407-354-5532 | Fax: 407-370-5016
When Walt Disney opened Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., on July 17, 1955, he created a unique destination built around storytelling and immersive experiences, ushering in a new era of family entertainment. More than sixty years later, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts (WDPR) has grown into one of the world’s leading providers of family travel and leisure experiences, giving millions of guests each year the chance to spend time with their families and friends, making memories that last a lifetime.

Six world-class vacation destinations with 12 theme parks and 52 resorts are at the heart of WDPR, operating in North America, Europe and Asia with more than 145,000 cast members. WDPR also includes Disney Cruise Line, with four ships and plans for two more to be completed in 2021, 2022 and 2023; Disney Vacation Club, with more than 220,000 member families; Adventures by Disney, which provides guided family vacation experiences to destinations around the globe; Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, in Ko Olina, Hawaii; and Walt Disney Imagineering, which designs and creates Disney parks, resorts, cruise ships, attractions and entertainment.

In the mid-1960s, Walt Disney’s dream was to build a family resort destination like no other. During that time, The Walt Disney Company acquired more than 25,000 acres in Central Florida and planned a whole new world of Disney entertainment. After more than seven years of preparation, including 52 months of construction, Walt Disney World Resort and Magic Kingdom Park opened in 1971. Since guests first strolled down Main Street, U.S.A., Walt Disney World has played an important role in many childhood and family memories. With a rich heritage of storytelling, Disney Parks combine creativity, innovation and technology to immerse guests in classic Disney tales and new kinds of family entertainment. Today, hundreds of millions of guests from around the globe visit this magical place to enjoy a Disney vacation — where the young at heart of all ages can laugh, play and learn together.

Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL – Since the first guests walked down Main Street, U.S.A., on Oct. 1, 1971, Walt Disney World Resort has become an iconic destination for millions of families around the world. Today, it is home to four theme parks, two water parks, five golf courses, 28 owned-and-operated resorts and hundreds of merchandise and dining experiences.

Walt Disney World
Adrianna Sekula
Manager, Government Relations
Walt Disney Parks & Resorts
Email: Adrianna.M.Sekula@disney.com
Phone: 407-697-1201
**Seven Dwarfs Mine at Walt Disney World**

Seven Dwarfs Mine Train is a spectacular addition to New Fantasyland and represents the completion of the largest expansion in the history of Magic Kingdom Park. Inspired by the classic Disney animated film classic “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs,” this fun, family-friendly roller coaster features a first-of-its kind ride system in which cars pivot back and forth during the twists, turns and drops of the ride. This ride incorporates the latest technology relating to engineering, simulation, storytelling, and animatronics.

Retreat to this ultra-modern Disney Resort hotel and discover award-winning dining, spectacular views and dazzling pools. Whether you’re staying in the iconic A-frame Contemporary tower or the nearby Garden Wing, you can walk to Magic Kingdom main gate or catch the Resort Monorail as it breezes through the tower. Inside, a 90-foot-tall mural by Disney Legend Mary Blair—responsible for the distinct look and feel of the “it’s a small world” attraction—celebrates the Grand Canyon and the American Southwest.

**Disney Contemporary Resort**

https://disneyworld.disney.go.com/resorts/contemporary-resort
Lind serves as Vice President of Design & Engineering and Global Integrated Facility & Operations Strategy at Walt Disney Parks & Resorts. He is also a licensed professional engineer in the state of Florida. In his global role, Lind guides the strategic development of multi-year plans for theme park asset creation and sustainment in support of resort operations around day-to-day operations. While at Walt Disney World, Lind has sponsored and established an internship program which includes students from more than 65 universities and colleges in the United States.

Dennis Lind
Vice President of Design & Engineering and Global Integrated Facility & Operations Strategy, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts

Michael Tschanz
Director of Technology and Analysis, Walt Disney World

Director of Technology and Analysis, a department within Design and Engineering at Walt Disney World®. Michael leads a 70+ member multidiscipline team who develops detailed mathematical and physics models for transportation, ride and animatronic systems. The responsibilities for this team also include the development of optimization algorithms, servo controllers, interactive/immersive experiences, and material process solutions. Michael's rich and diverse background includes designs of numerous attractions at various Disney theme parks including: Test Track® Attraction; Mission: SPACE® Attraction; Toy Story Mania!® Attraction and Expedition Everest® Attraction. Michael also designed all the velocity profiles at our worldwide locations of The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror™. Prior to joining the Disney team, Michael developed precision guidance algorithms and aerospace sensor simulations for Texas Instruments. He is also a professional musician and a music director at Peace United Methodist Church along with being a freelance accompanist.

Michael earned his BSEE from Ohio Northern University and a MSEE from the University of Texas Arlington. Further studies included a preparatory scholarship for the Cleveland Institute of Music. Michael also studied both classical and jazz piano at the University of North Texas.
Since its inception in 1963, UCF has transformed from a small commuter school into the second largest university in the nation with strong community partnerships throughout the region and programs that allows students to gain vital exposure into their areas of study. Among the many academic opportunities offered by UCF are study abroad programs which immerse students in the language and culture, while also opening the doors to learning and conducting research with 98 institutions in 36 countries.

UCF is an emerging preeminent research university in Florida and one of the best colleges for quality, access, impact and value. For instance, 44 % graduate with no educational debt and 44.6% of the students are minority, 26% being Hispanic. Forbes has named UCF one of the nation’s most affordable colleges, while both The Princeton Review and Kiplinger’s rank UCF a best-value university.

Additionally, UCF and its 13 colleges offer more than 212 degrees from UCF’s main campus, hospitality campus, health sciences campus, online and through its 10 regional locations. The 1,415-acre main campus is 13 miles east of downtown Orlando and adjacent to one of the top research parks in the nation. Regional campuses are located throughout Central Florida and include a fully accredited College of Medicine in the Medical City at Lake Nona. UCF’s fully online programs include bachelor degrees, graduate degrees, graduate certificates and more.

UCF is an academic, partnership and research leader in numerous fields, such as optics and lasers, modeling and simulation, engineering and computer science, business administration, education, hospitality management, health care and video game design. In fact, UCF’s Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA) is ranked as the nation’s best video game school by The Princeton Review.

One of the largest and most diverse colleges of engineering and computer science in the nation, UCF CECS hosts the #1 computer programming team in the nation, three-time national champion collegiate cyber defense team, and the top sales engineering team in the nation. The college has 11,000 students and 170 faculty and offers 32 different degrees. Some areas of specialization include Cyber Security, Energy Resiliency, Sustainable Coaster Systems and Prosthetic Interfaces.
President John Hitt
President
The University of Central Florida

John C. Hitt became the University of Central Florida's fourth president on March 1, 1992, and more than 25 years of remarkable results have followed under his visionary leadership.

When Dr. Hitt became president, UCF's enrollment ranked fifth in Florida and 115th in the nation. Since then, enrollment has tripled, making UCF the largest university in Florida and one of the largest in America. More importantly, the quality of academic programs, faculty, and students has increased dramatically; UCF has become a major metropolitan research university of global impact; and the university has launched more than $1 billion in new construction.

The projects include a new stadium, arena, medical college, student union center, regional campuses, student wellness center, a visitor information center, and community health clinic. Of the 309,274 degrees earned by students during UCF's history, President Hitt has awarded 254,397 of them – or 82 percent. He has awarded more degrees at a state university in Florida than any other president in Sunshine State history.

Currently, he is the longest-serving president in the State University System of Florida, and he has been president of UCF for nearly half the years since the university opened in 1968.

Meanwhile, President Hitt's drive to establish UCF as America's Leading Partnership University has made UCF synonymous with the economic progress and prosperity of Central Florida and the Sunshine State.

For instance, the president's persistence in working with state, local, and federal government officials and private businesses led to construction of the UCF College of Medicine at Lake Nona. A cluster of related facilities has resulted in a Medical City that is the biggest economic boost for Central Florida since Disney World. In the years ahead, this collaborative effort is projected to generate up to 30,000 jobs and an annual $7.6 billion economic benefit for the region.

Since President Hitt's arrival at UCF, research funding has escalated from $28.4 million to more than $100 million annually for the past 12 years. Research professors and students from various fields work with companies throughout Central Florida to develop new technologies and innovations that create well-paying jobs as part of the Florida High-Tech Corridor Council.

President Hitt founded the 23-county corridor council in 1996 with University of South Florida President Betty Castor. The University of Florida has since joined on, anchoring a public-private effort that has generated more than 3,200 jobs with a direct and indirect economic benefit of $1.3 billion.

The president's unique approach to tackling opportunities, challenges, and problems has taken UCF from promise to prominence – and it has earned him many accolades. Those include being twice ranked No. 1 on Orlando Magazine's list of Orlando's 50 Most Powerful People, earning the Orlando Sentinel's Central Floridian of the Year award, and being recognized by Washington Monthly magazine as one of the 10 most innovative college presidents in America.

He serves the public and higher education with distinction through a wide variety of organizations. For instance, he is an original member of the national University Innovation Alliance, a coalition of large public research universities seeking to improve educational access and academic success for low-income students. Dr. Hitt is also a member of the board of directors of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the Council of Presidents of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

Prior to arriving at UCF, Dr. Hitt served as the interim president at the University of Maine. His
leadership experience also includes a decade as provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bradley University in Illinois and other distinguished academic work at Texas Christian University and Tulane University.

Dr. Hitt grew up in Houston, Texas, and he was the first in his family to graduate from college. He and his wife, Martha, whom he met at Austin College in Texas where they both attended, have been married for more than 50 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Dan Holsenbeck is currently Senior Vice President for University Relations and Senior Counsel to the President at the University of Central Florida. In those positions, he supervises UCF’s state legislative, local government, and congressional liaison. He also serves the President of the University of Central Florida in numerous public relations and advisory capacities. He has held similar positions at four institutions including Auburn University.

Dan holds a B.S. in Mathematics (with honors) from Auburn University, a M.Ed. from the Johns Hopkins University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Management Systems from the Florida State University.

In 1999, Dan received the highest national recognition for his state relations activities, the Swede Johnson Award sponsored by CASE, NASULGC and AASCU. He has written, spoken, published, and taught extensively on all aspects of public relations, governmental relations, politics, teaching and testing in postsecondary education.

Dan is a Captain (Retired) in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was Director of Basic Enlisted Mathematics for the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School from 1967-69 and CO of 4 commands during his service.
As a graduate student at the University of Central Florida, Fulbright Scholar Albert Manero heard a radio interview with the man who invented the first 3D-printed artificial hand. Inspired by the process, he went to the aerospace research lab on the UCF campus and learned how to design low-cost prosthetic limbs that could be delivered to children in unique and surprising ways.

A year later, the company known as Limbitless Solutions was delivering a prosthetic arm to a Florida child born without an elbow. As the process became more refined, and media interest in 3D printing grew, Manero and his team of fellow students started collaborating with other companies to help realize their vision. In one very special case, Robert Downey Jr. was enlisted through Microsoft OneNote and The Collective Project to present a Limbitless-designed prosthetic arm to a congenitally deformed youth named Alex, who dreamed of having a bionic arm like the one worn by Downey in the Iron Man movies.

Manero’s vision is a heartwarming case study in innovation and entrepreneurship for the modern age, using cutting-edge technology as a means of giving back to communities in need — in this case the children of families who cannot afford traditional prosthetic limbs that cost upwards of $40,000. Employing additive manufacturing, or 3D printing, a layering process in which everyday items are printed out in strips to form low-cost personalized bionics, Manero launched a non-profit organization comprised of innovators who use their skills and passion to improve the world around them. Staffed by volunteers, many of whom are students like Manero himself, and funded primarily through outside investment and private donations, Limbitless currently manufactures prosthetics with a low material cost of $350 per limb.

Central to the groundbreaking Limbitless business model — the company gives away limbs to children and families in need; next year it will donate 75 arms to displaced Syrian children — is Manero’s steadfast determination to employ science and technology as tools for helping and inspiring people across the globe. Through his work he aims to reshape the scientific realm by infusing art and aesthetics into an area typically viewed as “cold” or dehumanizing. Expanding the familiar STEM acronym (academic shorthand for science, technology, engineering and math) to include A for art, Manero created Limbitless in the spirit of STEAM — the nexus of art and science where storytelling and engineering function seamlessly as a unified whole. Nothing less than innovation with compassion, employing design imbued with scientific purpose, Limbitless serves as a bold reminder of what technology can achieve through a singular vision and charitable spirit.

Through rousing, thought-provoking presentations tailored to groups and organizations at the corporate and grass-roots level, Manero and members of his team, including videographer Katie Manero, Director of Production Dominique Courbin and Director of Resource Management Tyler Petresky, recount the stories that made Limbitless one of technology’s most fascinating companies. In keynote speeches and customized talks, the team recounts how an innovative idea became an affordable alternative to pricey, difficult-to-obtain bionic prosthetics. In addition, they share some of the heartwarming stories of how a group of entrepreneurial volunteers working at the community level succeeded in providing children with better lives, improved confidence and what Limbitless calls “3D hope” — the idea that technological innovation can serve as a force for good in the world. For every speaking engagement, the Limbitless team will allocate a portion of its fees to creating more limbs for children in need.
Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Aty
Pegasus Professor and Chair of the Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department

Pegasus Professor and Chair of the Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Department at the University of Central Florida (UCF). He is also the Deputy Director of the Transportation Center (CATSS). His main expertise and interest is in the areas of traffic safety, simulation, data analytics and ITS. He was awarded in 2015 the Pegasus Professorship, the highest honor at UCF. In the last 20 years, Dr. Abdel-Aty has managed more than 50 research projects in excess of $10 million. Dr. Abdel-Aty has published more than 370 papers, 195 in journals (Citations 6250, H-Index 43). He supervised to graduation more than 50 PhD and MS students. Dr. Abdel-Aty is the Editor-in-Chief of Accident Analysis and Prevention, the premier journal in safety. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of the ITS Journal and the International Journal of Sustainable Transportation, a former Co-chair of the Transportation Research Board’s Subcommittee on ATIS, and member of multiple TRB Committees, including Safety Performance.

Leadership
Chair, Civil, Environmental & Construction Engineering Department
Advisor
American Society of Highway Engineers
Education
Ph.D. Transportation Engineering University of California, Davis
Research Interests
Traffic safety Analysis, Intelligent Transportation Systems, Big Data, Simulation, Travel Demand

Selected Publications


Thomas O’Neal, Ph.D.
UCF Associate Vice President of Research and Commercialization and director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Nationally recognized as an “entrepreneur in the business of helping entrepreneurs,” He is dedicated to creating and supporting sustainable innovation ecosystems in Florida. Dr. O’Neal’s efforts focus on building strong research programs at UCF and the transfer and commercialization of research results into the marketplace. He serves as the Executive Director of the UCF’s Business Incubation Program (UCFBIP) and oversees the Office of Technology Transfer, the Venture Accelerator, and GrowFL, Florida’s Economic Gardening Institute. Under Dr. O’Neal’s Leadership, the UCF UCFBIP expanded to seven locations, and earned “Incubator of the Year” in 2004 and “Incubator Network of the Year” in 2013 by the National Business Incubation Association (NBIA), where he currently serves as the board chair.

J. Oscar Rodriguez

J. Oscar Rodriguez is a seasoned business executive, technologist and innovator, having held positions as president & CEO in both NASDAQ-listed and private U.S. technology firms. With more than 30 years of technology leadership experience both in and out of Silicon Valley, he brings a deep understanding of product development, global technology marketing, executive sales, and business operations. Rodriguez is a continual investor and innovator in technology start-up firms, with specific expertise in information, computing, and green energy technologies. He is a member in the Florida Angel Nexus, and currently works with the UCF College of Engineering & Computer Science and the Office of Research & Commercialization, where he is a technology entrepreneurship educator in Lean Start-up methodologies. Rodriguez has a deep belief in leveraging entrepreneurship as an engine for global prosperity, and is focused driving the next generation of global innovation-based ventures in Central Florida.
Dr. Sun’s research interests include electric power and energy systems, in particular, power system restoration and self-healing, microgrid and data centers, cyber-physical systems, renewable integration, distributed energy resources, transmission and distribution operation and control. His research is funded by NSF and Microsoft. He received Microsoft Research Software Engineering Innovations Award in 2014.

**Dr. Wei Sun**  
Assistant Professor - Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Central Florida

Wei Sun is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Central Florida. He received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Iowa State University in 2011. He also received his M.S. and B.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Tianjin University in 2007 and 2004, respectively. He was an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at South Dakota State University in 2013-2015, a power system engineer at Alstom Grid in 2011-2012, a visiting scholar at the University of Hong Kong in 2011, and an intern at California Independent System Operator in 2010.

**Dr. Zhihua Qu**  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
University of Central Florida  
Director of FEEDER Center  
Foundations for Engineering Education for Distributed Energy Resources (FEEDER)  
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Department of Energy

Zhihua Qu received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1990. Afterwards, he joined the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Central Florida (UCF). From 1995 to 1997, he served as the assistant chair of the department. From 1999 to 2004, he was the Director of EE at UCF. He has been a Professor (since 2000), SAIC Endowed Professor (since 2010), Pegasus Professor and Chair of ECE (since 2010).
Dr. Qu's research interests include systems & control, in particular, robust control of nonlinear uncertain systems and cooperative control of networked heterogeneous systems, as well as their applications to autonomous vehicles, smart grid, and medical robotics. He directs a few laboratories, including UCF’s Medical Robotics Laboratory. He is the PI and Director of FEEDER Center, one of the four national-network centers funded by U.S. Department of Energy under its GEARED Program. As a Co-PI for Electric Vehicle Transportation Center (a tier-1 university transportation center funded by U.S. Department of Transportation), Dr. Qu leads the effort of developing smart interfaces between electrical vehicles and electrical grid as well as autonomous vehicle technologies.

In his areas of expertise, Dr. Qu has received a number of awards and published a number of the papers. He is the author of three books: Cooperative Control of Dynamical Systems with Applications to Autonomous Vehicles by Springer (2009), Robust Control of Nonlinear Uncertain Systems by Wiley (1998), and Robust Tracking Control of Robot Manipulators by IEEE (1996). Dr. Qu is a Fellow of IEEE and AAAS.

Dr. Qu served on Board of Governors, IEEE Control Systems Society and is currently serving on the Board of ECEDHA. He is/was an Associate Editor for Automatica (since 1999), IEEE ACCESS (since 2013), IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, and International Journal of Robotics and Automation. Currently, he also serves as the chair of IEEE CSS Technical Committee on Smart Grid and an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer.
Lockheed Martin (NYSE:LMT) solves the world's toughest technology challenges. More than 70 nations rely on Lockheed Martin employees, products and technologies to help them protect and connect their citizens and advance scientific discovery. Their industry portfolio's include aeronautics, missiles and fire control, rotary and mission systems, space system technologies. They are also focusing on robotics, directed energy, cyber security solutions, sensor technology and electronic warfare. Lockheed’s programs provided 9.6 Billion to support more than 1,500 suppliers in 65 countries.

- 97,000 total employees.
- 7,000 International employees
- 49,000 engineers, scientists and information technology professionals
- 400 facilities globally
- Operate in 70 countries

Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems (RMS) provides surface, air and undersea applications for U.S. military and international customers. The same expertise we provide to military customers is being applied to increase capabilities of U.S. and international civilian agencies. Our vision for RMS is to set performance standards for our customers worldwide, every day with the best people, best systems, and best services.

Lockheed Martin Training and Logistics Solutions reports through LM RMS and delivers training, logistics and test systems as its principal markets.

Dave Scott
Vice President of Strategy and Business Development for the Training and Logistics Solutions

Dave Scott is the vice president of Strategy and Business Development for the Training and Logistics Solutions (TLS) line of business within Lockheed Martin's Rotary and Mission Systems business area. Scott frequently delves into realism in training simulation and its benefits to affordably achieving training requirements. He also speaks on turn-key training programs which are designed to provide an integrated, performance-based training solution delivered as a service. He leads teams who work with domestic and international customers to develop their training sustainment and test requirements, to define approaches for supporting commercial and military platforms, and to secure training and logistics programs.
Gen. Thomas L. Baptiste completed his 34-year military career as the Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee, Brussels, Belgium. The NATO Military Committee is the highest military authority in NATO and provides direction and advice on military policy and strategy to the North Atlantic Council, guidance to the NATO strategic commanders, and support to the development of strategic concepts for the Alliance. In this role, Lt Gen (Ret) Baptiste also served as the second most senior military advisor to the NATO Secretary General. Lt Gen (Ret) Baptiste graduated from California State University, Chico, CA in June 1973. Following commissioning from the Officer Training School, he was initially trained as a Navigator/Weapons Systems Officer and assigned to the F-4 in 1974. After one operational tour he was competitively selected for Undergraduate Pilot Training and returned to the F-4 as a Pilot in 1978. In 1981, Lt Gen (Ret) Baptiste was handpicked to become part of the initial cadre of Instructor Pilots to stand-up the F-16 Training Wing at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL. Several other F-16 assignments followed including Commander, 72nd Fighter Training Squadron and Commander 52nd Operations Group. During two assignments in Washington D.C., he served as: The Director of Operations, Defense Nuclear Agency, and as the Assistant Deputy Director, International Negotiations, Directorate of Plans and Policy (J-5), the Joint Staff in the Pentagon.

As a General Officer, he served in a number of joint and combined assignments to include: the Deputy Commander, Canadian NORAD Region, Winnipeg, Manitoba; the Commander, Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, Colorado Springs, CO; and the Director of Plans (J-5), HQ NORAD, Peterson AFB, CO. Additionally, during his final seven years on active duty, he served at three different levels within the NATO Alliance: first as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, HQ AIRSOUTH, Naples, Italy; next as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Mons, Belgium; and finally as the Deputy Chairman, NATO Military Committee, HQ NATO, Brussels, Belgium. A Command Pilot, Lt Gen (Ret) Baptiste accumulated nearly 3,000 flight hours in a variety of fighter and trainer aircraft. He retired from active duty on June 1, 2007 and has been the President/Executive Director of the National Center for Simulation since January 18, 2010.
It’s been called a new chapter in Orlando’s history. The 650-acre health and life sciences park known as Lake Nona Medical City is a landmark for Orlando and a premier location for medical care, research and education. Carefully planned and laid out, Lake Nona Medical City represents a deliberate strategy to create a centralized focus of sophisticated medical treatment, research and education in Central Florida.

Based on the proven theory that a cluster of healthcare and bioscience facilities in proximity to one another will accelerate innovation, this intellectual hub opened in a coordinated fashion with a collaborative mission. In the next decade, Lake Nona Medical City will be home to some of the nation’s top hospitals, universities, research institutions and life science companies. The Medical City’s pioneering institutions are already forming networks and synergies, which are transforming Orlando into a global destination for health care, research and medical education while creating an economically improving the region.

Medical City is anchored by:

- University of Central Florida Health Sciences Campus
- Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute
- VA Medical Center
- Nemours Children’s Hospital
- University of Florida Academic & Research Center
- MD Anderson Orlando Cancer Research Institute
The GuideWell Innovation Center is one of the first planned buildings in Medical City, Lake Nona in Orlando, Florida. The building will represent the innovation interests of the community and be the epicenter for the development of new health solutions. The Center will include research labs from two major universities as well as the anchor tenant of the GuideWell Innovation CoRE (Collaborative Resource Ecosystem).

The ground floor of the GuideWell Innovation Center houses GuideWell Innovation CoRE (Collaborative Resource Ecosystem). CoRE provides business leaders, the global academic community and entrepreneurs a physical location to convene to create solutions that will reshape the future of health.

CoRE offers state-of-the-art connectivity and inviting creative workspace. The facility houses the following unique attributes to foster a culture of imaginative thinking, ideation and collaboration:

- The GuideWell Innovation Theater is a unique presentation venue where collaboration, vision, and imagination ignite utilizing adaptable audience-presenter format.
- The Gallery of Exhibits showcases the latest health solutions and products using cutting-edge presentation techniques.
- The Living Lab is an interactive and modular space designed for research studies where people can interact and participate with actual experiments.
- The Nutrition Lab is a dynamic twist on the art of eating and drinking where education, research and technology combine to create a tasteful and engaging experience.
- The Executive Boardroom is a state-of-the-art meeting space utilizing video teleconferencing with advanced audio/visual capabilities.
- The Start-up Garage provides advanced technologies including 3D printing and scanning as well as digital prototyping software to advance ideas into pre-production prototypes.
- The Imagination Cinema creates a theatre atmosphere for viewing video products, 3D renderings, and simulations.
- The GuideWell Studio is a video production studio for creating and recording engaging marketing and communications video material.
The defining trait of our master-designed Lake Nona community is an unparalleled commitment to inspire healthy living, encourage life-long learning, embrace technology and emphasize sustainability. Gloria plays a dual role in executing that mission: She cultivates relationships and business arrangements that support such efforts, and serves as program director for health and wellness at the Lake Nona Institute, a nonprofit organization that advocates strategies for building healthy communities. Gloria oversees collaborations with major health care companies such as Johnson & Johnson and GuideWell/Florida Blue, and stages the Lake Nona Impact Forum, a global health care leadership summit.

Gloria Caulfield also leads health and wellness strategy and planning for the Lake Nona Institute. Gloria is passionate about identifying partners who are skillful at collaboration and have the desire to innovate solutions that have the potential to move the needle on community health and wellness.

A University of Arizona graduate, Gloria had an extensive career at Florida Hospital and volunteers on the Executive Leadership Board for the American Diabetes Association for Central Florida. She has lived and worked around the world and was the first female CEO of Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce in its 100+ year history. Her first job after college was as an engineer with AT&T Bell Laboratories where she worked for 10 years. Leslie holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in Electrical Engineering, a master’s degree in International Management and a pilot’s license.

Leslie Hielema
Head of Transformational Innovation

Leslie has a unique background that combines innovation, business acceleration and economic development. Her experience ranges from launching global products to leading development of top secret battlefield software to growing entrepreneurial ventures. As head of transformational innovation at GuideWell, she leads the development of initiatives that accelerate health care innovation within the industry and the enterprise.
Haru Okuda, M.D., was recently named National Medical Director for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Simulation Learning Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) Program. In this role, Dr. Okuda leads a staff of clinical simulationists and educators in conducting research, developing curricula and best practices and coordinating acquisitions of clinical simulation training systems in support of health care providers at VA medical centers nationwide.

Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Okuda served as the Director and Assistant Vice President of the Institute for Medical Simulation and Advanced Learning for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the largest public health care system in the United States. In that role, he oversaw the construction of a 10,000 square foot, $10 million simulation center; coordinated the development and implementation of simulation programs in areas such as central line placement, obstetrical emergencies and code team training; and worked to link simulation training with patient safety outcomes for the organization. He was also Associate Clinical Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and was the former Associate Residency Director in Emergency Medicine and Director of Simulation for the medical school.

Dr. Okuda is the current co-chair of the educational program Simwars for this year’s International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare. Simwars is an inter-disciplinary simulation competition between health care providers that has been held at a number of national meetings, including the American College of Emergency Medicine Scientific Assembly and the Neurocritical Care Society's Annual Meeting. He is also Immediate Past Chair of the Emergency Medicine Special Interest group for Society for Simulation in Healthcare, and Vice-Chair of the Simulation Academy for the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

With numerous publications in the areas of simulation, patient safety and education, Dr. Okuda recently published the textbook “Emergency Medicine Oral Boards Review Illustrated.” In 2010, Dr. Okuda was recognized by Crain’s New York Business Magazine as a member of its current “40 Under 40” cohort, as well as by Becker’s Hospital Review as a “rising star” on its list of 25 health care leaders under age 40.

Dr. Okuda received his Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience from Brown University, his MD from New York Medical College and completed his residency in emergency medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He is currently completing a Clinical Quality Fellowship with the Greater New York Hospital Association/United Hospital Fund. He is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.
BRIDG

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Osceola County is home to one of the world’s most advanced sensor development and research lab/fab facilities operated by BRIDG, an industry-led collaborative partnership for advanced sensors, optics, photonics, and other advanced manufacturing devices. With support from Osceola County, the University of Central Florida and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council among others, BRIDG provides state-of-the-art manufacturing research and development capabilities and infrastructure for semiconductor manufacturing processes geared towards enhancing smart sensor technology innovation used in various applications and industries connected by the Internet of Things. Located just 15 minutes from Orlando International Airport, BRIDG provides the physical process and collaborative infrastructure to connect challenges and opportunities with solutions as it relates to the integration of semiconductor-based processes and materials for advanced sensors, imagers and other transformational devices. The facility is open and flexible enough to keep up with the ever-evolving pace of technology and has space to accommodate a variety of partner-funded activities.

BRIDG is part of NeoCity, a 500-acre technology district with ample land for companies looking to relocate or expand to Florida. Imec, the world-leading nanoelectronics research center established imec Florida in NeoCity to facilitate the collaboration between imec’s headquarters, based in Leuven, Belgium, and U.S.-based semiconductor and system companies, universities and research institutes.

BRIDG is powering tomorrow’s breakthroughs thanks to a unique collaboration model activated within the only advanced manufacturing development facility focused on semiconductor-based processes and materials for smart sensor and photonic technologies.

Their manufacturing development center is focused on two initial functional platforms: Advanced Materials and Devices Development Line & Advanced Packaging, Testing, and Device Integration Development Line

• BRIDG Solutions
  - Accelerate high potential technologies into next generation products and systems
  - BRIDG and partners develop and provide commercialization infrastructure
  - Provide capability for proof of concept, custom development, and pilot production
  - IP Protection
  - Provide academic institutions with infrastructure to enable them to conduct core research

• BRIDG Technology Development Platforms
  - Photonics, High Speed Electronic Systems, and Design Center
  - Advanced Materials and Device Development Lines – III-V and other novel materials integrated into silicon-based devices (CMOS, ASIC, and other Advanced Devices)
    - Sensors, Imagers, RF, Power, and other monolithically integrated devices
    - Materials Focus – GaAs, InGaAs, InP, GaSb, GaN, InGaN, AlGaN
  - 2.5 / 3D Device Integration, Test, and Packaging

• Market Focus
  - Aerospace, Defense, and Homeland Security
  - Environmental, Food, and Agriculture
  - Robotics, Autonomous Systems, Manufacturing, and Energy
  - Advanced Device Hardware and Software Integration – IoT / Cybersecurity / Smart Communities / Entertainment
  - Biomedical
Blair Barbour  
CEO, Photon X

With an MS in Electro-Optical Engineering from the University of Dayton, a BS in Engineering Physics from Marshall University, numerous patents and over 30 technical publications, Blair has over 25 years’ experience in development of this enabling optical technology.

Blair was presented with the “National Defense Industrial Association Materiel Acquisition/Technology Award” in recognition of his accomplishments in furthering sensor technology in the area of Passive Spatial Phase Imaging Techniques.

Don Fisher  
Osceola County Manager

Don Fisher serves as the chief executive officer overseeing county operations. He implements Commission policies and prepares an annual operating budget. He manages all departments under the Board of County Commissioners and coordinates government operations with Constitutional Officers. Osceola County is a county located in the U.S. state of Florida. As of the 2010 census, the population was 268,685. Its county seat is Kissimmee.

Dr. Liz Klonoff  
Vice President for Research, Dean of Graduate Studies, UCF

Dr. Klonoff comes to UCF from a joint appointment with San Diego State University and the University of California, San Diego, where she serves as the co-director of the joint doctoral program in clinical psychology.

She will be charged with advancing UCF’s reputation and impact as a 21st-century metropolitan research university by growing graduate enrollment, specifically for research-focused degrees, and elevating the scale and quality of its research.

A clinical and health psychologist, Klonoff has received more than $23 million in state and federal funding for her research into tobacco control and psychosocial issues related to cancer. She has clinical and research experience at several leading medical schools, including Duke and Case Western Reserve.
With an interest in health disparities, Klonoff has published widely on culture and gender diversity in clinical psychology and behavioral and preventative medicine. Since 1990, her research on tobacco control has impacted state and national policies on the sale of cigarettes to children and helped curb cigarette sales over the internet, as well as affected environmental smoking policies. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Educational Affairs and the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association.

Previously, Klonoff was on faculty in the departments of psychiatry, pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology and a clinical psychologist at Duke University Medical Center; an assistant professor in the departments of psychiatry, neurology, psychology and pediatrics at Case Western Reserve; and a professor of psychology at California State University, San Bernardino.

A Portland, Ore., native, Klonoff received her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the University of Oregon.

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**Chester N. Kennedy**
CEO of BRIDG

Chester N. Kennedy has more than 35 years of experience in the aerospace and commercial electronics industries. During his three-decade tenure at Lockheed Martin, Kennedy held a number of key leadership roles in the areas of engineering, program management and business development.

As CEO of BRIDG, Kennedy builds upon the organization's early entry into the highly competitive smart sensor market sector. He focuses on facilitating the partnerships required to help industry transition to the new era driven by the Internet of Things.

Kennedy served as Vice President and Chief Engineer of Training and Logistics Solutions at Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training.

He led a 2,000+ member global engineering team responsible for developing a wide variety of products, including support equipment, flight and ground simulators, training curriculums, automated test equipment and some of the most sophisticated Information Technology based logistics solutions in the world. Kennedy was accountable for program performance, managed department budgets, controlled engineering rates, and directed technology strategies to promote sustainability and support future growth.

Kennedy’s diverse experience includes a rotation at Lockheed Martin's headquarters where he was responsible for corporate-wide technology strategies and independent assessments of operational risks. He also actively participated in every phase of the program life cycle, from concept development through mature product sustainment.

Kennedy is an outspoken supporter of STEM outreach and serves on Florida's For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) executive advisory board. He is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Orlando Aero Club, an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics Astronautics, a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and is Vice Chairman of the Martin Federal Credit Union Board of Directors. He also holds positions on Industry Advisory Boards for the University of Central Florida and University of Florida. Additionally, Kennedy has served on the Naval Research Advisory Council by appointment of the Secretary of the Navy.

Kennedy holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tennessee and a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from the Florida Institute of Technology.
Ed Schons
President for the Florida High Tech Corridor Council

Ed Schons assumed the role of president for the Florida High Tech Corridor Council upon the retirement of Randy Berridge. He has been directly involved with The Corridor from its inception and remained involved in efforts to attract, retain and grow high tech, high wage industry and the workforce to support it.

As Corridor president, Ed leads the unique economic development initiative, anchored by the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida, with a mission to grow high tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship.

As UCF Assistant Vice President for University Relations and Director of University Economic Development, Ed managed economic development for internal and external constituencies. Prior to UCF he served as the Senior Economic Development Policy Manager for Florida Power Corporation (now Duke Energy).

Ed maintains key partnerships and relationships with economic development organizations in The Corridor and throughout the state of Florida. He has served as the Chair-man of the Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC), is a member of the Florida Chamber Foundation's Florida 2030 Executive Steering Committee, and is a delegate to the Enterprise Florida Inc. Stakeholders Council. Ed is a recipient of the Florida Chamber “President’s Award for Outstanding Service” and the Leadership St. Pete Alumni Association's “Leadership Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Community.”

Ed also received the prestigious “Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional Award” from the Florida Economic Development Council for Outstanding Dedication and Commitment to the Economic Development Profession.

BRIDG
Gloria Lequang
Director
Marketing and Community Relations
glequang@gobridg.com

Florida High Tech Corridor
Ed Schons
President
(407) 708-4630
ed.schons@floridahightech.com
http://www.floridahightech.com/
Space Coast is a small region on the eastern coast of Florida, within close range of Orlando and St. Augustine. It includes Titusville, Cape Canaveral, Melbourne, and Palm Bay among its cities. Positioned along 72 miles (116 km) of Florida’s eastern coastline, the Space Coast is the perfect combination of high-tech industry, innovation, and natural wonder. As the hub of the publicly and privately-funded space exploration industry, rocket launches ornament scenery of crystal-blue waters and natural surroundings with over 4,000 native animal species. The region, which is home to just over 568,000 people, boasts world-known economic drivers such as the Kennedy Space Center, Florida Institute of Technology, and Port Canaveral.

According to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Brevard County, which includes the Space Coast, has an unemployment rate around 4%. The Space Coast remains an extremely innovative and competitive area, not only because it is the epicenter of aerospace manufacturing and development, but also because of the collaboration between private, non-profit and public companies to develop an increasingly competitive and sustainable workforce.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that recently Brevard County’s total STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) employment was ranked #1 in Florida by the Brookings Institute. The Space Coast is also home to a strong collection of K-12 public schools, ranking #1 in best school quality of all large public school districts in the U.S. (Brookings Institute). The Brevard Public Schools also partner with the NASA Kennedy Space Center to teach their students about the engineering design process, various manufacturing technologies and women in the field of engineering. This prestigious public school system works to foster educational development and innovation at a young age, providing an opportunity for strong, future workforce advancement in this prosperous region.

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT
As a whole, this area of Florida is home to the most ground-breaking and exciting innovations in U.S. space technology and manufacturing, making it an idyllic place to invest. Since October 2010, the county has seen a tremendous growth in this sector with 22 aerospace project announcements creating 6,244 jobs. This represents over $2 billion in capital investment. Industry top names such as the commercial human space flight company Blue Origin and Brazil-based Embraer join others such as Harris, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin in calling the Space Coast an integral part of their success in the aerospace and aviation sector.

The innovative spirit that launched the space-shuttle program is still thriving today with a robust support system for entrepreneurship in high-tech industry. The Space Coast is known throughout Florida as one of the best places to start or grow a business. This movement is supported locally by programs such as high-tech incubator Groundswell Startups, The Space Coast FabLab, weVenture, the Small Business Development Center, and CAMID, (the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design at FIT), supporting corporations of all sizes in finding cost-effective solutions to manufacturing and engineering design challenges. Outdoor recreational life in Brevard is unlike any other. With nearly 365 days of sunshine, residents and visitors take advantage of year-long golfing, fishing, water sports, and more. Several historic downtowns, including Cocoa Main Street and Historic Downtown Melbourne, hold monthly events among their restaurant- and retail-lined streets. There is no shortage of local attractions. The Brevard Zoo welcomes 400,000 annual guests, and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex transports visitors out of this world. Ron Jon Surf Shop, the world’s largest surf shop, is a hot spot for locals and tourists alike.

TRANSPORTATION
As the world’s only quinti-modal community, offering transportation infrastructure in air, land, rail, sea, and space, Brevard County is a top name in business sectors such as aerospace, aviation, defense, communications, and more. Port Canaveral, one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting ports, is a world-class gateway for cruises, cargo, recreation, and logistics, as well as a gateway to new frontiers, including space. With less than one-hour transit time from sea buoy to dock, the Port’s channel is the most-accessible East Coast port in Florida. Annually, Port Canaveral hosts more than 4 million revenue cruise passengers through its state-of-the-art terminals and 5.5 million tons of cargo, including bulk, break-bulk, project, and containerized. The
Port is strategically located to service all Florida markets, as well as the Southeastern United States. Currently, the Port reaches a population of more than 58 million people in the Southeastern United States, as well as markets in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe. In addition to world class cruise facilities and diverse cargo operations, Port Canaveral offers more recreational opportunities than all other Florida deep-water seaports combined, including public parks, free public boat ramps, marinas, an entertainment district, and the seven-story interactive exhibit and event venue Exploration Tower.

Moving to rail and road, running through the area is Florida's East Coast Railway (FECR) as well as major highways such as Interstate 95. Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is the fastest growing hub for aviation and aerospace development, manufacturing and maintenance, and high-tech industries. It also transports a network of leisure travelers, business leaders, and more via several large airlines. Space Coast Regional Airport (TIX) is minutes away from high-tech firms such as Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company.

For the final frontier, the Space Coast is one of only three areas in the country that currently conduct commercial orbital launches. Together, Kennedy Space Center (KSC) and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station are home to the most U.S. commercial launches.

**HIGHER LEARNING**

Local high-learning institutes, educators, and leaders foster innovation and entrepreneurship for economic growth. Several state-run colleges call Brevard home. Eastern Florida State College offers bachelor and associate degrees in growing fields such as health care and business computer information technology, as well as certificate and trade programs, like welding. Also in the region is the University of Central Florida (UCF), the nation's second largest university, offering more than 210 degree programs for bachelor and graduate degrees.

Florida Institute of Technology is a national, private, research-intensive university offering bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in engineering, computing, science, aeronautics, business, psychology, education and communication. It is ranked a Tier 1 Best National University by U.S. News & World Report and has been named to The Wall Street Journal's list of best U.S. Universities. Based in the city of Melbourne on Florida's “Space Coast,” Florida Tech is located at the heart of the area’s commercial space, aerospace, cybersecurity, and high-tech manufacturing cluster, regularly contributing the research expertise of its faculty and the skilled professionalism of its graduates to organizations such as Harris Corporation, Northrop Grumman, Embraer, SpaceX and NASA - Kennedy Space Center. The university’s numerous research programs include The Harris Center for Information Assurance, Buzz Aldrin Space Institute, Aerospace Systems and Propulsion Laboratory, and Center for Corrosion and Biofouling Control. The ACE 8 Florida delegation will see first-hand Florida Tech’s world-class research and teaching programs in vital disciplines including computer security, aerospace systems, advanced manufacturing, and climate science. Learn more about Florida Tech at www.fit.edu.
William Capote
Mayor of Palm Bay

Mayor Capote was born in Pinar del Rio, Cuba in July 1962. He attended school there until the 3rd grade. The Capote family, including William and two other siblings left Cuba in October 1970 during the famed “Freedom Flights” that brought more than 245,000 Cuban refugees to the United States. The family first arrived in Miami, but after a week, migrated to Hoboken, New Jersey where Capote’s parents still reside.

Mayor Capote holds an associate degree in business administration, a bachelor’s degree in organizational management and a Master of Science in management. Mayor Capote is a military veteran of the New Jersey Army National Guard where he served from 1985 to 1993 achieving the rank of sergeant. He and his family moved to Palm Bay in 1994 and he was first elected to the Palm Bay City Council in November 2008.

During his current term as mayor, Capote says he wants to focus on strengthening the city’s economic development through new business-friendly policies, strategic planning, promoting the city as a destination, and tapping into the cultural diversity that he believes is a strong and vibrant market. “We have so much unrealized potential and so many things to attract new people and business to this area,” Capote said. “We should be embracing cultural events and creating new partnerships and showcasing the great city that we are.”

Palm Bay featured in U.S. Conference of Mayor’s newsletter regarding 2013 Mayor’s Ball and funds raised to support Tiny Girl Big Dream Inc., a program that promotes friendship in hopes of putting an end to bullying.
Florida Institute of Technology
www.fit.edu
web2.fit.edu/social-media-portal

Founded at the dawn of the Space Race in 1958, Florida Tech is the only independent, technological university in the Southeast. PayScale.com ranks graduates’ mid-career median salaries in first place among Florida’s universities, and lists Florida Tech among the top 20 universities in the South—both public and private. The university has been named a Barron’s Guide “Best Buy” in College Education, designated a Tier 1 Best National University in U.S. News & World Report, and is one of just nine schools in Florida lauded by the Fiske Guide to Colleges. In 2016, Times Higher Education ranked Florida Tech one of the top 20 small universities in the world and named it one of the top universities in the United States. Florida Tech offers undergraduate, master’s and doctoral programs. Fields of study include science, engineering, aeronautics, business, humanities, mathematics, cybersecurity, psychology, communication and education.

Our Mission

Florida Institute of Technology’s mission is to provide high-quality education to a culturally diverse student body in order to prepare students for entering the global workforce, seeking higher-education opportunities, and serving within their communities. The university also seeks to expand knowledge through basic and applied research and to serve the diverse economic, cultural, and societal needs of our local, state, national and international constituencies.

In support of this mission, we are committed to:

• Recruiting and developing excellent faculty to become leaders in their respective fields and internationally recognized scholars;

• Achieving recognition as an effective, innovative, technology-focused educational and research institution;

• Recruiting and retaining an excellent, highly select and culturally diverse student body;

• Continually improving the quality of campus life for all members of the university community;

• Providing personal and career growth opportunities for both traditional and nontraditional students and members of the faculty and staff;

• Securing and maintaining professional accreditation for all appropriate programs.
CAPT Winston E. Scott
Senior Vice President for External Relations at Florida Institute of Technology

Winston E. Scott is currently the Senior Vice President for External Relations at Florida Institute of Technology (Florida Tech), Professor of Aeronautics in the College of Aeronautics, and Professor of Music in the College of Psychology and Liberal Arts. He most recently served as the Dean of the College of Aeronautics at Florida Tech. He is a retired U.S. Navy captain and naval aviator. During his Navy career, Captain Scott served as an Anti-Submarine Warfare helicopter pilot flying the SH-2F helicopter. He served as a fighter pilot flying the F-14 Tomcat. He also served as a production test pilot flying the A-7 Corsair and the F/A-18 Hornet, research development test and evaluation (RDTE) pilot on the F-14, the F/A-18 and the A-7 aircrafts, and as a NASA astronaut. He has accumulated more than 6,000 hours of flight time in more than 25 different military and civilian aircraft and more than 200 shipboard landings.

Captain Scott was selected to become an astronaut by NASA in 1992. Serving as a mission specialist, he flew two space shuttle missions. Flying on space shuttles Endeavour and Columbia he has logged over 24 days in space; including 3 spacewalks totaling over 19 hours.

Captain Scott earned a BA degree in music and an MS degree in aeronautical engineering. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Florida Atlantic University and Michigan State University.

He has held numerous positions of leadership in academia, government and private industry. He serves on several corporate and not-for-profit advisory boards including the EDC of Florida’s Space Coast, MyRegion and the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Commerce of East Central Florida. He is member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics; Aircraft Operators and Pilots Association; Naval Tailhook Association; Naval Helicopter Association; and the Experimental Aircraft Association. Captain Scott maintains an active public speaking schedule.

His hobbies include flying and jazz music. He plays jazz trumpet with various bands along the Space Coast.

Captain Scott’s book Reflections from Earth Orbit was published by Collectors Guide Publishing Company in 2005.
Dr. McCay was previously at The University of Tennessee Space Institute, where he served as Alumni Distinguished Service Professor of Engineering Science and Program Chair of Engineering Science and Mechanics, and was chosen in a national search in 1993 as the chief executive officer for the campus.

Prior to joining The University of Tennessee in 1986, he served in several organizations: NASA Marshall Space Flight Center (senior engineer, branch chief, division chief), the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory (senior research physical scientist) and ARO, Inc. (research engineer).

He has taught as an adjunct professor at several universities (Auburn University, California State at Fresno, University of Alabama at Huntsville) and has over 100 technical publications to his credit including two books. In addition, he has been awarded sixteen patents (two of which have resulted in spin-off companies) and served as a reviewer for several journals. He was associate editor for the Journal of Propulsion and Power from 1991-1993.

While in both Florida and Tennessee, Dr. McCay has served on numerous economic development boards and chaired the Tennessee Valley Aerospace Region board, as well as serving as chairman of The University of Tennessee Research Corporation board, the intellectual property agent for The University of Tennessee. In 2009, he was appointed by NASA Administrator Charles Bolden to serve on the Education and Outreach Committee of the NASA Advisory Council.
Dr. S. Ann Becker
Senior Vice President for Research at Florida Institute of Technology

Dr. S. Ann Becker leads the University research enterprise as the Senior Vice President for Research and is a University Professor in Information Systems. She has held leadership positions in the Bisk College of Business including Dean, Associate Dean for Research, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and New Business Development, and Academic Chair for Online Programs. Dr. Becker also served as the Director of the National Center for Small Business Information at Florida Tech and as the Co-Director of the Software Engineering Research Center in the College of Engineering.

Dr. Becker was conferred the title of University Professor while holding a joint appointment in the Computer Science Department and the Bisk College of Business. Prior, she served as a full professor in the Computer Science Department at Florida Tech. Dr. Becker also held tenured faculty positions at Northern Arizona University and American University. She has produced over 100 publications, received research awards of $1.5 million, and served as the Principal Investigator on projects totaling $3.3 million. Dr. Becker has been involved in developing curricula for graduate and undergraduate programs to include innovation and entrepreneurship, information systems, and software engineering.

Educational Background

B.S. Management - G. R. Herberger College of Business, St. Cloud State University.

M.B.A. - G. R. Herberger College of Business, St. Cloud State University.

M.S. Information Systems - Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park.

Ph.D. Information Systems - Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park.

Graduate Certificate, Contract Management, Florida Tech.
Dr. Michael Grieves splits his time between the business and academic worlds. He is the author of the seminal books on Product Lifecycle Management (PLM): Product Lifecycle Management: Driving the Next Generation of Lean Thinking (McGraw-Hill, 2006) and Virtually Perfect: Driving Innovative and Lean Products through Product Lifecycle Management (SCP, 2010).

Dr. Grieves is an acknowledged world expert in PLM and lectures worldwide on engineering, manufacturing, and PLM in both industry and academia conferences. In addition to his books, Dr. Grieves has numerous publications and articles. Dr. Grieves consults with a number of leading international manufacturers and governmental organizations such as NASA.

He has an appointment as Research Professor at the Florida Institute of Technology and is Executive Director of FIT’s new Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID). Dr. Grieves is Chairman Emeritus of Oakland University’s School of Business Board of Visitors. He has taught in the United States, China, and Europe at the university senior undergraduate, and graduate school levels and has authored and taught executive education courses. Dr. Grieves is a Professor at CIMBA, Paderno del Grappa, Italy with an appointment at the University of Iowa.

Dr. Grieves has over forty years' experience in industry. He has been a senior executive at both Fortune 1000 and entrepreneurial companies during his career. He founded and took public a $100 million systems integration company and subsequently served as its audit and compensation committee chair. Dr. Grieves has substantial board experience, including serving on the board of public companies in both China and Japan. Dr. Grieves has a BSCE from Michigan State University and an MBA from Oakland University. He received his doctorate from the Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management.
Rob Salonen
CEcD, Director, Global Business Development at Florida Institute of Technology

Robert E. Salonen is Director, Global Business Development for the Florida Institute of Technology connecting the talent and technology development capabilities of the university to industry and community interests worldwide.

Rob is serving on the Florida Tech leadership teams for the University Corporate Alliance for Success (UCAS) and the Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Innovative Design (CAMID). He is also a member of the successful Florida Tech EDA, State of Florida and City of Palm Bay grant capture teams supporting the infrastructure development of CAMID.

During the course of his career prior to joining Florida Tech, Rob was a member of the executive team that founded the Southern Aero Medical Institute and Brevard Regional Hyperbaric Center in Melbourne, FL. Through his tenure at the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, he was a team member and a leader of multiple economic development projects including Embraer, the Navy’s Strategic Weapons Systems Ashore, CEV – LMCO Orion, Boeing CST 100, Blue Origin and Northrop Grumman.

Rob is a distinguished Eagle Scout, a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Arts and a candidate for the Master of Public Administration at the Florida Institute of Technology. He is also a graduate of Leadership Brevard and credentialed as a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) by the International Economic Development Council in Washington D.C.

Rob is active in the east central Florida community and serves on the executive committee for the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast, a member of the Florida District Export Council NCW, a member of the board for the Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce and on the advisory council for the Palm Bay MakerFaire. He is also a board member for the Founder’s Forum, Circles of Care and the National Space Club – Florida Committee.
Dr. Tristan Fiedler
Associate Vice President for Research at Florida Institute of Technology

Dr. Tristan Fiedler serves as Federal Government Relations liaison for Florida Tech’s Office of Research with responsibility for managing the communications and research partnership development with the federal agencies, including the EDA, NASA, FAA, NSA, NSF, and all branches of the Department of Defense. As an advocate for the University on Capitol Hill, Dr. Fiedler coordinates university communications with federal elected officials in Congress and the United States Senate, as well as with key senior leadership in federal funding agencies.

Dr. Fiedler holds the rank of Associate Vice President for Research, and joined the university in 2007. Due to the numerous partnerships with federal education, science, defense, and related research agencies, Dr. Fiedler advocates for the university and its mission in service, research, and education.

Florida Tech supports a sustained federal investment in research funding through robust faculty investigations. As campus federal government relations officer, Dr. Fiedler supports all faculty with resources for pursuing independent grants and contracts to support their scientific inquiries.

As highlighted during the ACE Florida Space Coast tour, Florida Tech was awarded a $1.4 Million grant by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2015 to enhance the Center for Advanced Manufacturing & Innovative Design, a 100,000 square-foot innovation hub located at the University’s Palm Bay facility.

The Federal Aviation Administration retains Dr. Fiedler to serve as Academic Liaison to the FAA Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation building and expanding on government, industrial, and academic partnership. Fiedler also serves as Councilor to the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and Florida Tech representative to the Florida Space Grant Consortium, Florida Institute of Oceanography, BioFlorida, and Patrick Air Force Base AFTAC Cooperative Research & Development Agreement.

Prior to joining Florida Tech, Dr. Fiedler was a National Institute of Health postdoctoral fellow in the Marine & Freshwater Biomedical Science Center of the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science of the University of Miami performing genome analyses. Completing research fellowships in bioinformatics at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York and at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Dr. Fiedler has published research in the fields of marine biochemistry, protein structural biology, enzymatics, genome sequence analysis, and genome annotation prediction.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Miami, a Master of Science in Marine Biology focusing on Biochemistry from the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, Virginia Key, FL, and his Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology from the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami.
Larsen Motorsports Development Program
www.elainelarsen.com/fit

Based in Palm Bay, Florida, the headquarters of Larsen Motorsports is embedded within the heart of Florida’s Space Coast manufacturing at the Florida Institute of Technology’s (FIT) Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID). This 30,000-square foot facility is at the cutting edge of technology; leading research and development with full concept, design, engineering and operational capabilities.

Larsen Motorsports' affiliation with FIT gives them the opportunity to work with the best people within the industry and the ability to develop relationships with other technology based manufacturers. With

a passion to introduce new talented young adults to the High Performance Vehicles Industry in STEM related careers, founders Chris and Elaine Larsen are continuing an endless journey in pursuit of speed using an Education through Entertainment model to change the way people look at the industry.

Larsen Motorsports has dedicated nearly 50% of the facility to educating visitors. Daily guided tours take the public through the entire process of running a world championship race team. Through concept, design, engineering, fabrication, and highly customized finish work, visitors learn how LMS and its partners are creating the next generation of high performance vehicles. 80% of the LMS work force are students in STEM education.

With over 20 years of drag racing experience, Elaine Larsen has found her home behind the wheel of her jet dragsters. She met and married her high school sweetheart, Chris. With their son Andrew and dog Nitro, Elaine lives her life all out. Her motto is Live Fast and Play Hard. She definitely practices what she preaches. Never one to back down from a challenge, Elaine faces every new obstacle head on. Not coming from a racing background, Elaine headed into uncharted territory and never looked back. She never let being a female in a male dominated world affect her in any way. “Drag Racing is the equalizer, on any given day, I have the same chance as anyone to win, it just has to be my day!!” says Elaine. Being a strong positive female role model is a job Elaine takes very serious, not only to the little girls, but to all ladies out there to never give up and always give 100%. Elaine is 49 and proud of where she is in her life. Every night before she goes to bed she knows that she had the Guts to go for the Glory!!!

Elaine Larsen
2014 and 2015 IHRA Jet Dragster World Champion Driver of the Florida Institute of Technology Jet Dragster
Chris Larsen
Co-Founder & Head Chief, Larson Motorsports

Chris Larsen is the Founder, Co-owner, and CEO of Larsen Motorsports of Palm Bay, Florida, a high tech racing company that operates multiple turbine powered drag race teams across North America. Chris has extensive fabrication skills and motorsports knowledge. He is a licensed pilot and FAA certified aircraft technician, having served as aircraft maintenance technician, quality control inspector and training manager for Cessna Aircraft Company for nearly two decades. Priorities at Larsen Motorsports include the development of future motorsports professionals focusing on engineering and business fields. Receiving countless kudos from the racing industry, Chris Larsen exhibits professionalism and a tireless work ethic in his business relationships at Larsen Motorsports.
Canaveral Port Authority  
(Port Canaveral)

As Florida’s third largest port by operating revenues, we are continuously working to exceed our goals of facilitating commerce and tourism by investing in our capabilities and capacity to support the needs of our partners today and to be prepared to meet the demands of tomorrow.

At Port Canaveral, we’ll see more than 4.5 million cruise passenger movements this year through state-of-the-art facilities serving some of the world’s most popular and successful cruise lines. A 14.7-acre auto terminal supporting thousands of new cars rolling on and off some of the world’s newest PCTC carriers. What’s more, Port Canaveral is the port of choice for sophisticated project cargo and millions of gallons of transportation fuels supplying nearly 40-percent of Central Florida, including jet fuels for Orlando’s and Melbourne’s airports. And, yes, there are rocket ships landing on barges making Port Canaveral the only Spaceport on the East Coast.

As the gateway to Central Florida, Port Canaveral provides facilities for shippers who seek to save time and money as benefits of its proximity to major markets and efficient transportation links. Shippers will find recent harbor improvements, new cruise and cargo terminals, a new auto facility and now leasing-- an inland warehouse and logistics center in Titusville. Canaveral also is home to U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force facilities, including Surface Deployment and Distribution, and serves as an important export gateway for U.S. government cargo destined to Ascension Island.

Eighty percent of the Port’s revenue is generated from cruise business, making it imperative to provide the state-of-the art facilities necessary to service today’s largest and most sophisticated cruise ships that now homeport or make a port call for the day.

As a premier maritime gateway, Port Canaveral also is investing in the facilities shippers need to take advantage of Central Florida’s time- and cost-saving location with its proximity to major markets and efficient transportation links.

At Port Canaveral we view our partnerships as valued investments in our future and essential to sustaining our collective success in the maritime community. I hope the innovation, operating diversity and enterprising spirit of Port Canaveral you will experience during your visit to our Port will leave you inspired with new information and connected to new and emerging friendships and business opportunities.

Captain John W. Murray  
Port Director and Chief Executive Officer

Port Canaveral began more than 63 years ago as a small port dedicated to the commercial fishing industry. Today, we are one of the world’s most dynamic and exciting ports – a world-class gateway for cargo and cruises, as well as a gateway to new frontiers in space. Our once small manmade port is now the world’s second busiest cruise port; the world’s top cruise homeport in North America by growth; and, a vital gateway for commerce by sea, land, air, and space, generating $2.2 billion impact for the local and regional economy.
Thomas W. Weinberg
Chairman of Canaveral Port Authority

Thomas W. Weinberg is a fourth-generation Brevardian and Cocoa Beach resident. He was elected District 5 Commissioner for the Canaveral Port Authority, a Special District created by the Florida Legislature, and began his term in January, 2011. A Cape Canaveral resident, he has served two terms as CPA Board of Commissioners Chairman and two additional terms as Secretary/Treasurer, and is currently again serving as Chairman.

Mr. Weinberg is a licensed realtor and real estate investor and is active in various civic and professional organizations. He currently serves on the Board for Crosswinds Youth Services, is a member of Brevard County Civilian Military Community Relations Council, the Propeller Club of Port Canaveral, and a Director/Investor of Fidelity Bank of Florida. He has served on EITC Steering Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Orange County; Children & Family Community Alliance; Central Florida WAGES Coalition, Chairman; United Way of Greater Tampa, Board Member; Chief Executive Officers Council, Hillsborough County, Elected Chairman; and Children's Board of Hillsborough County.

His career accomplishments include positions in federal, state, and local government. As Chief of Staff for former U.S. Senator Mel Martinez, his responsibilities included legislative policy, constituent services, communication, correspondence and scheduling overseeing a team of 70-plus employees in the Senator's Florida and Washington, D.C. offices.

Mr. Weinberg holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminology from Florida State University and completed graduate studies in Criminal Justice and Social Work at FSU and Rollins College.
Captain John W. Murray
Chief Executive Officer

Captain John W. Murray joined the Canaveral Port Authority (CPA) in February 2016. A highly respected maritime executive, Capt. Murray brings a wealth of maritime experience to his role as Chief Executive Officer and Port Director for one of the world’s most dynamic ports.

Prior to joining CPA, Capt. Murray was president and chief executive officer of Hapag-Lloyd USA, the U.S.-flag shipping subsidiary of Hapag-Lloyd AG, a leading global liner shipping company. A 40-year maritime industry veteran, Capt. Murray has held numerous positions of responsibility, rising through the management ranks following various mergers and acquisitions at Lykes Lines, CP Ships and finally, Hapag-Lloyd.

A U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, Capt. Murray earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nautical Science from the Maine Maritime Academy. Upon graduation, he joined Lykes Lines as a Third Mate, quickly rose to Master, and his last at-sea assignment was commanding the S.S. Brinton Lykes. Capt. Murray’s shore side assignments included Mid-Atlantic Division Regional Operations Manager in Norfolk, Va., overseeing vessel fleet operations for Lykes’ Marine Division, and Vice President, Operations with responsibility for all Lykes Lines container logistics, marine and insurance activities. He was named President and CEO of Lykes Lines in 2000.

Capt. Murray is at the helm of Port Canaveral, one of Florida’s fastest growing seaports. With a staff of more than 200 Port employees, he manages a world-class gateway for cruises, cargo, recreation and logistics, as well as a gateway to new frontiers, including space.

Capt. Murray has been a member of the National Cargo Bureau since 1997, was elected to the American Bureau of Shipping in 2016, and is appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Transportation Research Board. He served on the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) Executive Working Group (EWG) and participated in the biannual Department of Defense forum established to regularly interact with commercial ocean carriers supporting U.S. military sealift requirements. Capt. Murray has testified before the U.S. Congress as a subject matter expert in maritime industry management and vessel operations in a global economy. His additional professional affiliations include a long-standing member of the National Defense Transportation Association, the Navy League of the United States, the Council of American Master Mariners, and the International Propeller Club chapters in Washington, D.C., Tampa and Port Canaveral, Florida.

Email: jmurray@portcanaveral.com Office: (321) 783-7831 ext 232
NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida has long served as America's spaceport, hosting all of the federal government's manned spaceflights since the late 1960s.

KSC is named after President John F. Kennedy, who famously declared in 1961 that the United States would put an astronaut on the moon, and bring that person safely back to Earth, before the end of the decade.

KSC was pivotal to that bold effort, which ultimately succeeded when Neil Armstrong and his two Apollo 11 crewmates splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969. Apollo 11 launched from KSC, as did all subsequent flights in the Apollo program, and every one of the space shuttle's 135 missions.

KSC spreads across 219 square miles (567 square kilometers) on Merritt Island, just northwest of Florida's Cape Canaveral.

The Cape has been a center of U.S. launch activity since 1949, when President Harry Truman established the Joint Long-Range Proving Ground — currently known as the Eastern Range — there to test missiles.

It was a nearly ideal location for this purpose — virtually uninhabited, with a climate permitting year-round activities. And vehicles could be launched out over the Atlantic Ocean, minimizing the chances of affecting populated areas.

The first launch from the Cape occurred in 1950, when a military-civilian team lofted a modified German V-2 rocket to an altitude of 10 miles (16 km). On Jan. 31, 1958, Explorer 1 blasted off from Cape Canaveral, becoming the United States' first satellite to reach orbit.

NASA became operational in October 1958. Just three years later, the space agency began gearing up to put a man on the moon, directed by the goals President Kennedy outlined in a speech to Congress on May 25, 1961.

Such an ambitious undertaking would require the biggest rocket ever built — the 363-foot-tall (111 meters) Saturn 5. The facilities at Cape Canaveral couldn't support such an enormous vehicle, according to NASA records, so space agency officials began looking for another site. [Lunar Legacy: Apollo Moon Mission Photos]

They settled on nearby Merritt Island, and began acquiring land there in 1962. The new facility was originally called the Launch Operations Directorate (LOD), and it reported to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama.

In July 1962, the LOD was renamed the Launch Operations Center and put on equal footing with other NASA centers. It received its current name on Nov. 29, 1963, just one week after President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.

In 1963, construction began on the Apollo-Saturn facilities, some of which are truly monumental. KSC's Vehicle Assembly Building, for example,
measures 525 feet tall by 716 feet long by 518 feet wide (160 by 218 by 158 m). The VAB, which was completed in the mid-1960s, remains one of the largest buildings in the world.

Launch elements of NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston — now known as Johnson Space Center — were transferred to KSC in December 1964.

eil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins blasted off for the moon from KSC on July 16, 1969. Other moonwalkers followed in their footsteps, until the last Apollo flight in December 1972. After 1975’s manned Apollo-Soyuz Test Project — the first joint U.S.-Soviet spaceflight — NASA began modifying KSC to accommodate the space shuttle, which would make its maiden space voyage in April 1981.

The shuttle served as America's human spaceflight workhorse for the next 30 years, and KSC was the vehicle's home base. Five different orbiters blasted off on a total of 135 space missions from KSC, and most flights landed there, too. (Some touched down at Edwards Air Force Base in California, and one mission landed at New Mexico’s White Sands Space Harbor.)

Tragically, only three space-flown shuttles would survive through the program’s end in July 2011. Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff in January 1986, and Columbia broke apart upon re-entry in February 2003. Each accident claimed the lives of all seven astronauts onboard.

The remaining shuttles — Discovery, Endeavour, Atlantis and the prototype Enterprise, which never reached orbit — are now museum pieces as NASA enters a new period in its human spaceflight history. [Infographic: Where to See America's Greatest Spaceships]

The space agency is grooming private American firms to ferry astronauts to and from Earth orbit, and it hopes at least two commercial vehicles will be ready to go by 2017. Meanwhile, NASA is focusing on getting people to a near-Earth asteroid by 2025 and then on to Mars by the mid-2030s — tasks set out by President Barack Obama in 2010.

The end of the shuttle program hit the KSC workforce hard, resulting in the loss of many jobs. But officials are positioning KSC to remain at the forefront of American manned spaceflight activities.

For example, XCOR Aerospace will manufacture its two-person Lynx spacecraft at KSC, and the suborbital rocketplane will launch from the site as well. KSC will also likely serve as home base for Sierra Nevada’s Dream Chaser space plane and ATK’s Liberty Launch system, two vehicles vying to take over the space shuttle’s astronaut-taxi role.

And NASA’s Space Launch System — the massive new rocket that will blast American crews toward deep space destinations — will take off from KSC as well. The first test flight of the SLS is slated for 2017, and NASA hopes the rocket and its Orion capsule are flying astronauts by 2021.
Thomas O. Engler
Director, KSC Center Planning and Development Directorate

Thomas O. (Tom) Engler is the Director of the Center Planning and Development Directorate at the NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC). He provides strategic leadership and management integration of Center planning activities and partnership development initiatives to further develop KSC as a multi-user spaceport supporting both government and commercial launch providers and their customers. He leads the identification and development of strategic and business partnerships that advance NASA and KSC goals, and provides the KSC ‘front door’ interface to industry and other governmental organizations. He also ensures the effective use and development of the Center’s land, facilities and technical capabilities in support of NASA missions through Center land use planning, development of spaceport infrastructure and business strategies, and the preparation and coordination of the Center Master Plan with NASA organizations and external stakeholders. He is responsible for the development, negotiation and coordination of proposed real estate agreements with public and private entities for use of KSC land and facilities.

Prior to this assignment, Tom was manager of the organization’s Partnership Development Office. His efforts were focused around identifying new opportunities to bring commercial launch, spacecraft manufacturing, technology and related business to Florida, as well as leading efforts to increase University partnerships with KSC. Prior to this assignment, Tom was the Team Lead of the Space Shuttle Program (SSP) Reusable Solid Rocket Booster (RSRB) Assembly and Refurbishment Facility (ARF). His responsibilities included managing all of the operations that occurred at the SRB facilities at the KSC, which included 4 complexes of facilities located across the KSC. These operations encompassed over 800 employees that manufactured flight critical components for the RSRM. In addition, he was responsible for managing the facilities infrastructure for the SRB facilities, which included managing day-to-day maintenance of the facilities to preparing Agency Construction of Facilities requests.

Tom holds a B.S in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a M.S. in Computer Science from the Florida Institute of Technology.
Palm Coast, Bunnell, Marineland and the Flagler Beaches are located in Flagler County, along the east coast of Florida. Nestled between the well-known tourism communities of Daytona Beach and St. Augustine, Flagler County is predominantly a residential/business community. The County has 19 miles of pristine, cinnamon-colored beaches, breathtaking scenery, tranquil waterways, and an unrivaled county-wide park system. Our 108,000+ residents have the benefit of short commutes to work/school each morning and world-class golfing, surfing, boating, biking, or horseback riding in the evening. In Flagler County, we truly live a resort-style life.

However, we’re more than just miles of tranquil beaches, acres of beautiful parks and hundreds of days of sunshine. Situated in the center of the strongest economic corridor in the State of Florida, Flagler County provides the perfect blend of business and beaches. Residents enjoy all of the metropolitan advantages without the typical urban headaches. Our commutes are measured in minutes, not miles; our workforce pipeline is nurtured locally but attracts nationally; and our economic development is focused on job creation and diversification while maintaining an environmentally sustainable, high-quality-of-life. As a result, we have seen year-over-year employment growth at a rate of 3.8%, an annual economic impact of $80M, and an estimated private sector capital investment of $11M+.

The catalyst to Flagler County’s successful growth is the unprecedented collaborative nature of the public, private and not-for-profit entities. We pride ourselves on the local, regional and state partnerships that have been developed. Participants in the ACE Program will have the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders in the community and discuss the unique ways in which Flagler County has benefited from unconventional approaches and unique opportunities related to our key industries.

EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY - WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND ATTRACTION

Nothing is more important to community and business success than an experienced available workforce. Our geography provides access to 450,000+ highly-skilled potential employees. Additionally, we have a number of innovative and award-winning programs that have been implemented to ensure the continued economic success of the area. One such program, the FLAGSHIP ACADEMIES, is offered by the schools. It creates an educational pipeline through the partnership between the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Flagler Schools and the private sector.

The focus of each Flagship Academy is strategically tailored to align with the Target Industries that Flagler County is actively recruiting and expanding. Students are offered hands-on learning in the areas of Agriculture, Aerospace/Aviation, Green Technology, Health Science, Engineering and Computer Science, Marine Research, Finance and Business, Leadership, and the Arts. Flagships provide enrichment and relevance to the regular school curriculums, while focusing on skills and opportunities that lead to career readiness. In many cases, the individual academies offer industry certifications and/or dual college enrollment that allow the students to enter the workforce in a career-related field while earning their degrees.

REGIONAL INDUSTRY: EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND VISION

AVIATION: RESEARCH AND MANUFACTURING:

Centrally located along the I-95 Aerospace Corridor, Flagler County is a prime location for the aviation-related industry. The educational partnership with the Flagler Schools includes a dual enrollment agreement with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The University has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report as a best college and included on the Forbes’ List of America’s Top Colleges. High school students attend university classes as part of the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University’s Aerospace Career Academy.

As an added incentive for aviation-related industry, Flagler County has invested in excess of $50M in infrastructure improvements and site planning of the Flagler County Executive Airport and Commerce Park. The airport accommodates every type of general aviation aircraft, and has two 5,500 foot runways, a 3,000-foot water runway, and two heliports and now boasts a 90-acre industrial park that is pad-ready and positioned for growth.
HIGH-TECH: INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY:

As a pioneer, Palm Coast was one of the first cities in Florida to install a fiber optic network capable of delivering unlimited bandwidth to high-tech businesses. This foresight positioned Flagler County to take advantage of the evolving global economy. Today, unlike in many cities across the United States, Flagler County businesses have multiple providers for high speed internet to choose from. As a result, Flagler County has seen a rise in technology-based businesses where employees are driven by quality-of-life. Coastal Cloud, a growing tech company in Flagler County, is the perfect example of the “Live at the Beach, Work in the Cloud” philosophy.

LIFE SCIENCE: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience is a full-time University of Florida research center for biomedical research and biotechnology. Founded in 1974 and located on the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, one of only three National Estuarine Research Reserves in Florida and 23 in the world, the Whitney Lab is dedicated to using marine model animals for studying fundamental problems in biology. The suite of scientific experts from around the world work on cutting edge projects which yield insights into health biological and conservation issues of today.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING: Workforce and Infrastructure:

Flagler County’s proximity to highways, railways and port has allowed manufacturers to flourish in the area. We have proactively addressed the availability of workforce through an award-winning Talent Recruitment Program and Site-Specific Workforce Training Program tailored to the needs of industry. Today, regional businesses produce and distribute a diverse array of products, including: agricultural products; alcohol/spirits; aviation LED lights; architectural elements; automobile parts and accessories; awnings; cabinetry; chemical-private labeling; confectionary & chocolates; canvas products; electrical connectors and switches; electrical and fiber optic connections; luxury boats; machine manufacturing; medical equipment; metal fabricating; metalized poly-propylene capacitors, and AC capacitors; performance wheels; plastic components; precision grinding machines; pyrotechnics; railroad wheels; water treatment systems; wire for electronic, medical, and audio use and more.

Donald O’Brien
Flagler County Commissioner

Mr. O’Brien represents District 5, an area that includes the northern area of Palm Coast and mostly to the west of Interstate 95. Elected in November 2015, O’Brien is Chief Financial Officer and Account Executive with Hayward Brown-Flagler, a full-service independent insurance agency. He is currently a board member and past Chairman of the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the Florida Hospital Flagler Foundation Board, and board member of the Early Learning Coalition of Volusia and Flagler Counties.
Craig Coffey
Flagler County Administrator

Craig Coffey is a dynamic leader with over 25 years of professional public administration experience. He has a thorough understanding of both city and county government, as he worked his way up the ranks as a planner, public works director, utilities manager, including over 14 years spent as a City/County administrator.

Arriving in Flagler County in December 2007, Coffey has navigated the County through what is being called “the great recession” by strategically restructuring the County budget and trimming workforce, while understanding the importance of maintaining quality services for residents. His accomplishments are many; including: overseeing hundreds of millions of dollars of capital projects and grants; initiating the permitting of a County saltwater wetland mitigation bank as an alternative to park funding from property taxes; and safely leading the County through major wildfire and hurricane seasons.

Helga van Eckert
Executive Director
Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity

Ms. van Eckert is an accomplished economic development professional with over 20 years of experience in: the recruitment, retention, relocation and expansion of businesses; the selection, design, development and financing of underperforming properties; and, the identification and securing of federal, state and county grant financing. In her position as the Executive Director of the Flagler Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), she is responsible for the structuring of a new department and operations, developing a long-range economic development plan and branding/public relations strategy, and driving strategic public/private and public/public partnerships that balance the growth of new business while ensuring the retention and expansion of existing commerce. The DEO’s efforts to date have resulted in the recruitment/expansion of eleven businesses with an anticipated annual earnings impact in excess of $75M, and contributed to the reduction in the county unemployment rate from a high of over 13% to today’s rate of 5%.

While in New Jersey, she served as the Executive Director of a northern city Department of Economic and Community Development, Redevelopment, Urban Enterprise Zone and Business Improvement District. She leaves behind a legacy of having negotiated and managed multiple developer/redeveloper agreements that have resulted in over $1 billion public/private investment, 1,000+ mixed-use residential units, approximately 1.5 million square feet of industrial/warehouse space, over 1,000 new jobs and millions of dollars in municipal tax revenues.

Helga van Eckert, Executive Director
Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity
(386) 313-4071
HvanEckert@FlaglerCountyEDC.com
Sea Ray Boats, Inc

Each boat consists of over 30 fiberglass parts, including a deck and a hull. The hull and deck are received in Assembly which has four phases of completion.

- Station 1 consists of engine installation and bilge prep, including fuel tanks, generator, water tanks, waste tanks, overall electrical and plumbing. It also includes hull prep where floor/head units are installed. Sea Ray offers both v-drive (shaft driven) and Zeus (pod) propulsion with Mercury, Cummins and Caterpillar diesel engines from Twin 480 HP to Twin 838 HP.

- Station 2 is deck prepping. All hardware and helm stations are installed—this includes the windscreen, hardtop, and bridges, cleats and anchor hardware. It also includes the installation of the cockpit sole.

- Station 3 is deck set. The deck gets mated to the hull during the deck set process. Once the mating is complete, the deck gets bonded and fiber glassed to the hull in strategic positions for structural support. Gunnel molding is applied after mating.

- Station 4 is fitting/installation. Headliners, ceilings, cabinets, doors, microwaves, refrigerators, freezers, wine coolers and TV’s are installed in this phase.

- Once the boat is completed and inspected on the line, it rolls out the door to Water Test. Each boat is at water test a minimum of ten hours (including run time & system checks) and undergoes a hurricane test for water leaks. Boats are then detailed, and prepped for water delivery or truck shipment.

Sea Ray makes a boat for every lifestyle — each built with a unique commitment to quality, craftsmanship and excellence throughout. Sea Ray’s Palm Coast, FL plant manufactures models from 40-55 ft. and employs 450 team members. The location affords a moderate year-round manufacturing climate and easy access to water.

The production process is divided into four major areas: Lamination, Fabrication, Assembly and Quality Assurance/Water Test. The tour will focus on the Assembly area.

Founded in 1959, Sea Ray is the world’s leading manufacturer of superior quality pleasure boats. Sea Ray is headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., and operates as part of the Boat Group division of Brunswick Corporation. Additional information about Sea Ray is available at www.searay.com

Tim Singley
Plant Manager Sea Ray Palm Coast
tim.singley@searay.com

Tim Singley has been the Plant Manager of the Sea Ray Palm Coast Facility since January of 2016. He has over 22 years of manufacturing leadership experience with Siemens, Corning, and Ingersoll Rand. Mr. Singley has served as President and Board Member on several Economic Development Councils and Chambers of Commerce. He is an U.S. Army veteran and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering. He earned his MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.
Flagler School District

Vision of Classroom to Careers - Flagship Program
Flagler School's Classroom to Careers - Flagships offer opportunities to discover paths that lead students from classroom to career success. Through aligning our K-12 Classroom to Careers paths and Flagship programs with targeted industries in our community and region, Flagler Schools has become a meaningful partner with economic development and the business community in creating a pipeline of talent. Through a laser focus on regional targeted industries and a vision to create robust and fully developed pathways, Classroom to Careers is designed to create paths students can enter in the earliest years and have access to explore and develop in career paths that will seamlessly flow from K-12 and on to postsecondary and career opportunities, with a priority of students being college and career ready when graduating high school, with industry certifications and/or dual enrollment credit.

Pillars of the Flagship and Classroom to Careers Program Create a Pipeline of Talent:

• Establish a seamless series of pathways strongly focused on targeted industries and needs of the community and region.

• Provide pathways that are available from kindergarten to post-secondary aligned with targeted industries

• Embed industry certifications, certificate opportunities, or college credit assessments as appropriate at all levels

• Respond to the needs of the community to create pathways, such as the Fire Academy, which was created at the request of and in partnership with the local municipalities.

Career Exploration:
• Prepare students for a global world, while ensuring they are prepared, aware of, and connected to the needs of economic development and industry in our region.

• Define career exploration opportunities that are developmentally appropriate at all levels, scaffold upon each other through the grade levels, and are clearly focused through alignment with the established pathways. Coordination of career fairs, exploration tours, job shadowing, internships and job placement from K-12 ensures that the message to our students is consistent and embedded in their educational journey.

Transforming Education:
• Create relevant educational experiences aligned with Flagship Programs that provide project based learning experiences and develop defined soft skills of collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking and enhanced communication skills.

• Adapt and develop active learning spaces such as the NEXUS engineering lab at Wadsworth Elementary, the Vystar Bank branch office in Matanzas High School and the Aeronautics lab at Flagler Palm Coast High School, that serve the instructional needs of the Flagship Programs.

Building Partnerships:
• Establish and maintain meaningful relationships with Economic Development leaders in the community through joint advisory venues and systemic practices that connect local business leaders with all levels of classrooms in mentoring and advisory roles aligned to the Classroom to Careers paths.

• Purposefully create opportunities aligned with the established pathways for students to expand their network through collaboration and communication.
James Tager  
Superintendent Flagler Schools

Mr. James Tager comes to Flagler Schools as Superintendent following a long career in education. Prior to becoming Superintendent of Flagler Schools, Mr. Tager served as a school or district administrator with Volusia County Schools. Mr. Tager believes all students possess an innate talent or gift that can be used to accelerate their positive growth to become highly educated, responsible citizens. He also is not tied to a desk. Mr. Tager is a regular visitor at our schools engaging with students, parents, faculty, and staff.

Among his many honors, Superintendent Tager has been named Educator of the Year by the East Central Florida Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, Secondary Visual Arts Principal of the Year, and Administrator of the Year by the Volusia Media Specialist Association, Volusia Band and Choral Association and the Volusia/Flagler Counseling Association. A native of Ohio, Mr. Tager received his degree in Elementary Education and Special Education from Flagler College in 1982. He was awarded his Masters in Administration and Supervision from Nova Southeastern University in 1987. He now calls Flagler Beach home. He has two children, a daughter who is a speech pathologist in south Florida and a son who is a social studies teacher in Volusia County.

with community leaders, businesses, experts, and mentors such as the Lunch Tray project from Old Kings Elementary School’s Marine Science Flagship, in collaboration with Flagler Palm Coast High School’s i3 New Tech Academy, that has changed district practice on using biodegradable trays, and has directly impacted additional districts practices.

Lynette Shott  
Executive Director of Student And Community Engagement

Lynette Shott currently serves as the Executive Director of Student and Community Engagement for Flagler Schools. She has 29 years of experience as an educator working with diverse student populations from early childhood through high school and has served in a number of rolls as a classroom teacher, reading coach, district reading specialists, and high school principal. Lynette’s responsibilities and experiences have included development of the district’s Classroom to Careers initiative, student services and supports, professional development training, and K-12 literacy. She works closely with community members, support agencies, and economic development to create relevant and engaging opportunities for students that provide personalized learning choices and optimize student engagement.
ST. AUGUSTINE
The oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the continental U.S., the 452-year-old city of St. Augustine is commonly known for its history. Starting with the landing by Pedro Menendez de Aviles on September 8, 1565, St. Augustine has been governed twice by Spain and once by England, became a USA territory in 1891 and served as the capital of Florida from 1821-1824. Now a popular tourist destination famous for its Spanish charm and varied architecture, the City of St. Augustine is home to Flagler College, once the grand Hotel Ponce de Leon built by Henry Flagler in 1888. St. Johns County also boasts the top rated public-school system in the state of Florida and within a short drive many public colleges and universities are represented including St. Johns River State College, University of North Florida, Jacksonville University and Florida State College at Jacksonville, providing a ready skilled workforce for the area.

Nancy Shaver
Mayor of St. Augustine

Nancy Shaver, currently serves the people of St Augustine in her second term as Mayor. The daughter of a Navy captain, her childhood was spent in many states and overseas, and her career also kept her on the move.

Nancy’s business experience is both national and global and includes leading a Fortune 500 marketing organization. She began her working life as a teacher, was a senior leader of a technology startup that became a publicly traded firm. She most recently worked as Principal Consultant in the Strategy Practice of Experian, a global leader in information and technology. A graduate of Wellesley College, she has served on boards of businesses and non-profits, and currently serves on the Tourist Development Council, the Lightner Museum as well as the Continuum of Care Board which oversees the agencies serving those who are homeless. Nancy also has shared her management guidance with non-profits and small businesses on a pro-bono basis.

After moving to St. Augustine in 2009 she became an active citizen, using her business skills to help her fellow citizens be better informed on City decisions. And as a citizen activist she worked to have Riberia Pointe become Dr. Robert B. Hayling Freedom Park. This involvement led her to her first run for political office, where her grass roots effort led to the defeat of a four term incumbent.

Nancy says that her best work ever has been her two children. Her son, Sean, whose work as an MD. PhD. has him leading global drug trials, lives in California with his wife and two children. Charleston is home to daughter Jenn, a marine biologist, and her husband. And they all love to visit St. Augustine.
John P. Regan
City Manager
City of St. Augustine

John Patrick Regan joined the City of St. Augustine in May 1998 as the Utilities Director. He was promoted to the position of Chief Operations Officer in November, 2003. As the Chief Operations Officer, he worked in all areas of public administration but his greatest challenge was parking and traffic management issues. In April, 2010, John was promoted to City Manager by a unanimous vote of the City Commission. He is well regarded for his innovations and creativity in reducing the costs of government operations and public consensus building.

John came to the City from Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) where he worked in engineering, management, and administration over a ten-year period. Between GRU and previous work experience, he has extensive expertise in hydrogeology, water resource planning, water and wastewater treatment, utilities and construction. John is a professional engineer licensed with the State of Florida and has published numerous articles on research and development of engineering technology and public utility management issues.

A native of Miami, John graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering and a minor in Environmental Sciences in 1985.

John is active in the community in his service on the Board of Directors for the United Way of St. Johns County, the Rotary Club of St. Augustine and as a member of the Board of Advocates for the University of Florida Historic Preservation Department. Previously, he served on the Board of Directors for the St. Francis House, a homeless shelter.

In 2004, John was presented with the Annual Award for the Preservation of St. Augustine, Inc. This award was in recognition of outstanding service in the field of historic preservation.

In 2016 John was awarded the medal of the Order of Isabella the Catholica by King Felipe VI, Spain. This recognition was for his continuous work on the cultural relationship between the United States and Spain culminating in the 450th anniversary of the founding of the City of St. Augustine.

Within the last few years, John has been actively lecturing on the importance of historic preservation in its relationship to other municipal issues such as taxation and fighting crime. He will talk with anyone who will listen.

John has been married to Felicia Regan for 32 years; they have two adult children.

Contact:
Wanda Bray
The City of St. Augustine
904.825.1004
wbray@citystaug.com
The Castillo de San Marcos is unique in North American architecture. As the only extant 17th century military construction in the country and the oldest masonry fortress in the United States it is a prime example of the “bastion system” of fortification, the culmination of hundreds of years of military defense engineering. It is also unique for the material used in its construction. The Castillo is one of only two fortifications in the world build out of a semi-rare form of limestone called coquina (The other is Fort Matanzas National Monument 14 miles south.).

Bastion System
Originating in Italy in the 15th century the particular star shaped design of the Castillo is a result of architecture adapting to technology. The change in warfare brought about by black powder weapons created new types of defensive structures adapted both to withstand or avoid the impact of cannon projectiles and to effectively mount cannons to repel any attackers. Of the major architectural variations the “bastion system,” named for the projecting diamond or angle shaped formations added onto the fort walls, was the most commonly and effectively used.

The Stone That Saved Spanish Florida
Given its light and porous nature, coquina would seem to be a poor choice of building material for a fort. But the Spanish had few other options; it was the only stone available on the northeast coast of La Florida. However, coquina’s porosity turned out to have an unexpected benefit. Because of its conglomerate mixture coquina contains millions of microscopic air pockets making it compressible. A cannon ball fired at more solid material, such as granite or brick would shatter the wall into flying shards, but cannon balls fired at the walls of the Castillo burrowed their way into the rock and stuck there, much like a bb would if fired into Styrofoam. So the thick coquina walls absorbed or deflected projectiles rather than yielding to them, providing a surprisingly long-lived fortress.

Is it a Fort or a Castle?
A very interesting question, and there really isn’t a 100% clear answer. According to Wikipedia, “the definition of a castle accepted amongst academics is ‘a private fortified residence’.” Merriam-Webster Dictionary says a castle is “a large fortified building or set of buildings; a retreat safe against intrusion or invasion.” Oxford English Dictionary says it is “a large building, typically of the medieval period, fortified against attack with thick walls, battlements, towers, and in many cases a moat.” The Castillo de San Marcos fits all of those definitions in one way, or at one time, or another. When it was first built, the governor of St. Augustine resided inside the building, which would make it “a private fortified residence.” It is most definitely a large, fortified building that provided a retreat safe against invasion for the people of St Augustine (at one time, it housed over 1,500 people for 51 days while the English laid siege!). And it also has thick walls, battlements, towers and a moat.

Most of the fortifications the Spanish built in the New World were named Castillos. Perhaps it is a hold-over from medieval times, meant to inspire their people and instill fear in their enemies? The Spanish were fond of decoration and embellishment in the physical designs of their fortresses; they may have felt the same about their names. As of yet, there has been no documentation found explaining exactly why they chose to use Castillo rather than Fuerte or Fortaleza. However, it is interesting to note that the wooden fort that preceded the current stone one was also called Castillo de San Marcos.

Also interesting is the fact that it does later become referred to as a fort. When the British
gained Florida through the 1763 Treaty of Paris, they renamed the building Fort Saint Mark, and the United States Army decided in 1825 to call it Fort Marion. Under those occupations, it was indeed used for a purely military function. The British and the Americans did not plan to use it as a place of refuge for the citizens of St. Augustine; they both used it as barracks, for military storage, and a few times as a military prison. The National Park Service and the United States Congress decided to restore its original name in 1942, in honor of its unique Spanish history, so it went back to Castillo de San Marco for good.

Gordon “Gordie” Wilson
Superintendent, Fort Matanzas
and Castillo de San Marcos
National Monuments

After graduating from college in New York with a degree in recreation, Gordie Wilson spent the next three years as a park ranger in Maryland, Nevada, Georgia and, the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine.

In 1979 he graduated from the Federal Law Enforcement Center’s Criminal Investigator School but continued to serve as an administrative officer or superintendent at various historic sites in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee until 1992 when he became superintendent of the Castillo de San Marcos.

Superintendent Wilson has spent the last twenty-five years focused entirely on the preservation of one of our true national treasures. As the oldest masonry fortress in the United States and the only extant 17th century military construction in the country, that has been a full time responsibility. Mr. Wilson has been able to balance the needs of a historic coquina structure completed in 1695 with the budget constraints of a modern day government department and the ever growing demands of a very large tourist population.
The St. Augustine Distillery
Company
www.staugustinedistillery.com

**A Passion for Spirits**

The Distillery group was fascinated with the idea of making craft spirits. Utilizing local ingredients to produce whiskey, rum, vodka and gin challenged the way they thought about a cocktail. Some of us have spent a significant portion of our adult life in pursuit of the perfect adult drink – so they knew this endeavor could be fun. And so they talked to the smartest people in the industry – farmers, distillers, engineers, bartenders, consumers – they talked to them all. Armed with great advice and insights, they designed and built what is a beautiful and well-designed craft distillery.

**Florida’s Oldest Ice Plant and The Distillery’s Home**

Finding a place big enough to house a distillery and convenient enough to allow folks to visit and learn what was being created was no small task. There was one building that had everything that was needed: The Historic FP&L Ice Plant. Built as part of St. Augustine’s first power and ice complex in 1907, it has been lovingly restored and brought back into service. The Ice Plant is a contributing building to the Lincolnville Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places and was the first of its kind to make commercial block ice in Florida over 100 years ago. Today, she is helping The Distillery make Florida’s first bourbon and other fine craft spirits.

**Locally Founded and Community Owned**

The St. Augustine Distillery wanted to bring something special to St. Augustine; something that could take root and grow. Craft distilling was happening all over the country, but not in Florida. So a group of shared visionaries - 28 brave, beautiful local people signed on to help build this dream. Three years later they are standing in a historic building, proudly taking their place in St. Augustine’s rich history.

**Philip McDaniel**

Co-Founder and CEO of St. Augustine Distillery

Philip McDaniel is co-founder and CEO of St. Augustine Distillery, located in the historic Ice Plant building on Riberia Street in St. Augustine. After graduating from Assumption College with degrees in Economics and Spanish, McDaniel owned a sales and marketing company supporting convenience and oil stores with name branded promotional products like the Hess toy trucks. Selling that company enabled him to take a break in his career to focus on his family. Six years ago he reentered the workforce with a plan to support his community and his family by operating a craft distillery.

Mr. McDaniel says his most important marketing tool is to tell people the story behind the company and how they care for their community – the Distillery has created 37 new jobs, they want to make the best spirits using local agriculture, and they want to educate their guests on how the spirits are made.
Gainesville, Florida is home to the University of Florida, the #9 ranked public university in the nation with over 50,000 students and $800 million/year in research and Santa Fe College, the #1 ranked community college in the nation with another 25,000 students. The University of Florida is one of only six universities in the nation with every discipline located on one, 2,000-acre campus, including the state’s leading medical and agricultural research engines. The University is also known for its leading commercialization record (#3 ranked Best Universities for Tech Transfer), having first commercialized the globally recognized drink, Gatorade, over 50 years ago today. Gainesville, Florida, with its expansive tree lined streets and outstanding natural beauty encompasses an enviable quality of life. A growing hub of bioscience, software/IT and advanced manufacturing companies complete the picture of this growing technology hub.

In terms of the economy, the programs at University of Florida and Santa Fe College combine with major health-care providers like UF Shands and North Florida Regional Medical Center to create clusters in life sciences, biotech, health care, and information technology. The Gainesville Veterans Administration Center offers yet another opportunity for entry into the health care market. At the end of 2016, the unemployment rate was 4.5%, but has since dropped to 3.7% by April of 2017. This growth, combined with the research opportunities and skilled workforce, makes Gainesville a prime location for investment.

A number of roads, including Interstate 75, US 441, and US 301, among others, connect Gainesville to Jacksonville, Orlando, Tallahassee, and Ocala. The Gainesville Regional Airport served approximately 400,000 passengers in 2013 by quickly connecting them to Miami, Atlanta, Charlotte, Tampa, and Orlando. Amtrak rail and 277 intermodal providers offer an easy connection between Gainesville and the rest of the country, making it easy to transport goods, as well as people.

Located midway between Jacksonville and Orlando, with over 155 square kilometers of natural beauty and sprawling campuses of creativity and innovation, Gainesville will be the fifth stop on the ACE 8 Tour of North Central Florida. Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, which received a record $791 million USD (FY 2016) in research grants in the last fiscal year, and is ranked 9th in the nation overall and third in the nation for technology transfer. Gainesville is also home to Santa Fe College—winner of the 2015 Aspen Award for Community College Excellence—which plays a major role in the success of its students and the industries with which it partners to strengthen talent reserves. Gainesville has leveraged a history of innovation to create a future of opportunity for its business and people. Gainesville’s education institutions and innovation ecosystem will provide much to see during your excursions. We hope you enjoy this chance to tour the frontlines of Gainesville industry where our extremely well-educated workforce comes together to participate in bleeding-edge work.

BUSINESS INCUBATION AND GROWTH MECCA

Gainesville’s legacy of innovation is manifest at learning centers, such as the Cade Museum for Creativity and Innovation, and is nurtured by the region’s multiple startup incubators. With assets such as UF Health—which has become a world-renowned teaching hospital, most recently ranking in six pediatric specialties in the U.S. News and World Best Children's Hospitals 2017—and the Sid Martin Biotech Institute (in 2013 ranked as “World’s Best University Biotech Incubator” and recipient of NBIA’s “Incubator of the Year”, and in 2017 awarded the Randall M. Whaley Incubator of the Year award) it makes sense that Gainesville would be a hotspot for Life Science research and commercialization. The UF Innovation Hub, which provides on-hand access to financial advisors, legal counsel, office space, lab equipment and more for their resident startups, is in the process of doubling its space with funding from an $8 million U.S. Economic Development Agency grant. The Santa Fe College Center for Innovation and Economic Development oversees incubators such as Gainesville’s Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC), which hosts many incredible resources for local startups. The list of these centers goes on and on, providing great soil for startup growth in a wide range of industries here in Gainesville.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

UF’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has locations all over America working at the frontline of research, and an office in every single county in the State of Florida, with Gainesville acting as the state hub. IFAS research has been instrumental in several highly significant innovations, including the Sentricon termite control system, which protects more than 3 million structures, including the White House. IFAS research has led to advancements in preventing citrus greening. The program’s influence
has also created a dense population of modern farms utilizing the latest technology and techniques. As a result, we have many restaurants that source their ingredients locally, producing incredible, sustainable dining options that showcase the global influence of Gainesville's agricultural industry sector. This has helped flourish an environmentally friendly mindset among the community. Through a growing biking culture that's supported by city infrastructure, and wide use of our numerous nature parks and natural springs our environment is cherished by the young, educated workforce community we have.

ACE 8 attendees will have an amazing opportunity to enjoy this farm-to-table dining during their visit. IFAS and local farms work together to vitalize Gainesville's assortment of incredible sustainable dining options that showcase the global influence of our agricultural industry sector.

UNPARALLELED EDUCATION ASSETS
Gainesville’s industries are nestled neatly in the community with much prosperity presently and even more in the future due to multiple education assets that regularly encourage industry growth. For example, Santa Fe College has “more than 500 employer representatives on 100 different advisory committees providing input into curriculum, equipment, and internship opportunities for students.” The Gainesville Dev Academy, a local startup focused on turning trained coders into world-class developers, works without many rules and formalities and has successfully established itself as a source of high-quality, work-ready tech talent. The University of Florida is widely recognized as a top-tier school that graduates a large and extremely competitive workforce. Both Santa Fe College and the University of Florida partner strategically with the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, CareerSource North Central Florida, and companies across multiple industries to supporting career opportunities for students, and economic growth for the region. These strategic partnerships establish a tight bond between academia and industry that bolsters the Gainesville workforce. The capitalization of Gainesville's highly educated workforce and connection to local research and talent growth is best exhibited at our advanced manufacturing facilities such as RTI Surgical, Nanotherapeutics, Exactech, Invivo, Fabco-Air, and more. These facilities continue to expand in our city as Gainesville provides plenty of talent and opportunity through continual growth and strategic partnerships with education organizations.
The University of Florida (UF)
www.ufl.edu

The University of Florida has over 200 research, service and education centers, bureaus and institutes. It is consistently ranked among the nation’s top universities, illustrating that it provides a high-quality education at one of the best values. Founded in 1853, UF has a total undergraduate enrollment of 34,554, its setting is suburban, and the campus size is 2,000 acres.

UF is about two miles away from downtown Gainesville, a college town bolstered by the school’s more than 50,000 students. The Florida Gators sports teams compete in the NCAA Division I Southeastern Conference, and are supported by mascots Albert and Alberta the Alligators. The Gator football team, which competes in New Engineering Building – commonly called the “The Swamp” – is particularly notorious. The team became the namesake of popular sports drink Gatorade in 1965, after freshmen Gators participated in an experiment with the novel beverage.

University of Florida, and in particular the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (HWCOE), prides itself on the diversity of our students, faculty and staff. Innovation and economic growth and prosperity require a diversity of perspectives and experiences and HWCOE is uniquely positioned to provide a pipeline of diverse STEM talent to industry.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering offers degrees through nine departments. In addition, there are College-wide certificate programs in Innovation and Leadership, as well as Sales Engineering, offered through the Engineering Innovation Institute and the Engineering Leadership Institute. In 2016, the Engineering Innovation Minor was launched. In addition to the classical programs, the University of Florida is a pioneer in developing the “Innovation Academy” program. This program allows undergraduate students to explore innovation, leadership and entrepreneurship throughout their curriculum.

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Dr. W. Kent Fuchs
President of the University of Florida

Dr. Kent Fuchs became the 12th President of the University of Florida in January 2015. Under President Fuchs’ leadership, the university has developed shared goals for the decade ahead. UF’s overarching aspiration is to be a premier comprehensive university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership.

Previous to the UF presidency, Dr. Fuchs spent six years as provost of Cornell University. He was appointed provost after serving as Cornell’s Joseph Silbert Dean of Engineering from 2002 to 2008. He joined Cornell from Purdue University, where he headed the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering from 1996 to 2002. He was a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois from 1985 to 1996.
He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Association for Computing Machinery, and has received numerous awards for teaching and research.

President Fuchs earned his doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Illinois, and a master of divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago. He credits divinity school with teaching him communication and community-building skills, and to balance his innately analytic perspective with a deep appreciation for people and for human relationships. He also holds a bachelor of science in engineering from Duke University.

Dr. Fuchs is married to Linda Moskeland Fuchs, an art historian whose scholarship centers on the sculpture of sarcophagi created in the first centuries of Christian art-making. Mrs. Fuchs has two master’s degrees in art history, from the University of Chicago and Cornell, and a third in Biblical studies, from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. The Fuchses have three sons, a daughter, and two grandsons.

Born on an Oklahoma farm in 1954, President Fuchs spent much of his youth in Alaska before moving to Miami, where he graduated from Miami Killian Senior High School. His two younger brothers and stepmother live in South Florida.
private sector. In 2015, Erik was named Founding Executive Director of the FLorida Engineering eXperiment Station (FLEXStation) at the University of Florida.

Erik received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida and Master of Science in Management of Technology (Cum Laude) from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has served on the boards of a number of public and private organizations and has given invited presentations at over 100 conferences internationally.

Joisie is passionate about the power of information technology, high impact entrepreneurship, and cooperation. She is committed to becoming part of the world’s development by bringing flourishing innovation, can-do spirit and stamina. Joisie is looking to develop her skills in different managerial, entrepreneurial, economic and financial roles. She aims to place herself in the lead of new patterns for social development, economic improvement, a more fair business environment.

Aeson Maceda
President, University of Florida
Formula SAE

Growing up in the Philippines, Aeson Maceda did not have a lot of opportunities for personal and professional growth in his hometown. He decided to study major in Aerospace Engineering, and minor in Business Administration at University of Florida, where he found a home in Gator Motorsports: University of Florida’s Formula Society of Automotive Engineer organization. He started off as a new member. His primary tasks were to assist other members with their projects, and meanwhile finishing not-so-critical projects that were handed to him. These projects involved learning machining experience including Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM), Computer Numerical Control (CNC), welding, and advanced manufacturing of composite materials. Due to his dedication and commitment to the team, his role in his second year of Gator Motorsports meant more responsibility. He was appointed the Composites Lead for 2016-2017, and

Joisie Mantilla
Economics and Information Systems undergraduate student at the University of Florida

Joisie is passionate about the power of information technology, high impact entrepreneurship, and cooperation. She is committed to becoming part of the world’s development by bringing flourishing innovation, can-do spirit and stamina. Joisie is looking to develop her skills in different managerial, entrepreneurial, economic and financial roles. She aims to place herself in the lead of new patterns for social development, economic improvement, a more fair business environment.
elected the position of Recruitment Coordinator for the same year.

As a composites lead, his objective was to design and manufacture the impact attenuator, and the body panels of the car. The impact attenuator of the car is the first of many requirements for competition; this is the nose that must reduce the amount of g’s a driver will experience in the rare instance of front collision. Aeson also worked on the research and development of carbon fiber rims. He created iosipescu test samples to find the shear modulus of the carbon fiber prepreg material in the Gator Motorsports’ stock.

As a recruitment coordinator, his objective was to acquire and manage new members for the team. He managed the project deliverables of individuals who were interested in joining and being part of the Gator Motorsports family.

All this work that was put towards the team was seen by everyone. He was elected President for the year 2017-2018, and is now responsible for the administrative and team management tasks.

He also had a 2017 Summer internship with Cummins, a global diesel engine manufacturer. His job responsibilities as a Product Validation Engineer was to coordinate tasks between different departments and the test engineers, and to perform failure analysis after tests. His work was mostly in the turbo and exhaust side of the 6.7L Dodge Ram engines.

As of today, he has finished coursework that awards him his minor in Business Administration. This includes classes in financial accounting, management, marketing, economics, and business finance. He is on his last year and is finishing up his final few classes in Aerospace Engineering. He plans to continue into an MBA program after graduation.
The Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention was founded by the late Dr. James Robert Cade. Dr. Cade was a professor of renal (kidney) medicine at the University of Florida and led the team that invented Gatorade. He envisioned a place that would delight and inspire the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and visionaries. Due to the rapid advance of technology, the game is changing again. We must prepare tomorrow's leaders to solve problems we cannot yet comprehend.

Mission: transforming communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries.

Rory P. Causseaux
PE Founder / CEO / Shareholder, CHW Professional Consultants and Chair, Board of Directors, Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce

As founding principal and Chief Executive Officer, Rory has been providing professional engineering services in the Southeast for close to 30 years. His engineering design expertise extends from site infrastructure design to permitting projects of all types, ranging from individual commercial and mixed-use developments to large-scale residential communities. Rory guides both corporate vision and staff management closely with company Co-principals, Executives and Directors.

Mayor Lauren Poe
Mayor of Gainesville

Mayor Poe has lived in Gainesville since first moving here in 1982. His father was the Director of Bands at the University of Florida, bringing Lauren in to the Gator Nation at an early age. Mayor Poe is a graduate of Gainesville High School, earned his BA in History and M.Ed. in Secondary Social Sciences from the University of Florida.

Lauren has been a teacher in Alachua County since 1998, teaching American History at Ft. Clarke Middle School for four years before accepting a job as a Professor at Santa Fe College, recognized as the #1 college in the nation by the Aspen Institute. Professor Poe teaches Economics and Government in the High School Dual Enrollment Program.

Mayor Poe was first elected to two terms for a total of six years on the Gainesville City Commission. His service on the commission included a year as mayor-commissioner pro tem, chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency, chair of the...
Lee Pinkoson  
Alachua County Commissioner  

Born and raised in Alachua County, Commissioner Pinkoson attended all local schools and graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Business Administration.

He is married to the lovely Tina Pinkoson, and is extremely fortunate to have three terrific sons.

Recently retired, Commissioner Pinkoson enjoyed a 31-year career in opticianry, owning a business for 22 years.

Commissioner Pinkoson was elected to the Alachua County Commission in November 2002. Actively involved in the Rotary Club of Gainesville since 1980, he has served in the capacity as a member of the Board of Directors, President of the Club as well as serving as the chair of Rotary's Wild Game Feast four times.

Phoebe Miles  
Board President and CEO, Cade Museum  

Phoebe Miles founded the Cade Museum in 2004. She is also co-founder and vice-president of the Gloria Dei Foundation, a family-operated charity.

As a member of the Gainesville Quarterback Club, he enjoyed being a member of the Board of Directors and its President.

Currently, he serves as a member and President (the shortest straw scenario) of a charitable catering group called the Foundation Fryers. The money raised goes to scholarships.

Pinkoson also found time throughout all of his involvement in many civic organizations to create the Wooden Barrel's “Feed the Hungry” Program. He is also excited about the role of champion for United Way Success by Six, an organization that has full potential to have a positive influence on families and children in Alachua County.
that awards grants to organizations that promote the common good in accordance with Christian principles.

Both Gloria Dei and the Cade Museum Foundation were endowed with gifts by Mrs. Miles’ parents, Dr. Robert Cade and Mary Cade. Dr. Cade, a University of Florida researcher and physician who passed away in November 2007, was best known as the leader of the team that invented Gatorade in 1965. A native of Gainesville, Florida, Mrs. Miles has lived much of her adult life overseas, accompanying her husband to official postings with the U.S. Army in Nuremberg, Germany, and with the U.S. State Department in Bridgetown, Barbados; Berlin, Germany; and Buenos Aires, Argentina. She also spent a semester abroad as a university student in Heidelberg, Germany.

Fluent in German and Spanish, she earned a B.A. in History and a B.A. in German from the University of Washington in 1987. She is a 1981 graduate of Buchholz High School in Gainesville and has been married to Richard Miles, also of Gainesville, since 1985. They have three children, Christian, Cecelia, and Elena.

He’s currently involved in talks with both the medical center and the engineering school in Gainesville in attempt to expand the Extension model university-wide.

He has also overseen the launch of Challenge 2050, a new undergraduate program in which students learn through developing their own solutions to the grand challenge of feeding a projected 9.6 billion people by mid-century.

He has worked at Penn State, Texas A&M, Utah State and Iowa State. He also spent 10 years leading conservation efforts for Ducks Unlimited.

Now at his fifth land-grant university, he is passionate about the research, teaching and extension missions and insists that land-grants will have to play a central role in meeting many of the grand challenges of our times.

He likes to say the state is his office. Indeed it is, as he oversees Extension offices in all 67 Florida counties and 12 research and education centers. He travels the state frequently to visit with growers, land managers, association leaders, legislators and employees.

Dr. Jack Payne
Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

Jack Payne has led IFAS since 2010. In the last five years, he’s kept the organization strong despite lean state budgets and is now coming off a year in which IFAS brought in more than $100 million in research grants and $23 million in private donations and pledges.

He is a champion for agricultural research and has lobbied to keep public funding and public attention focused on the need to come up with solutions to citrus greening. His idea to start a global food systems institute to make UF an international leader in food security issues is one of the UF Preeminence campaign’s most prominent initiatives.
Santa Fe College was established by the state legislature in 1965 as a “community college,” since then Santa Fe has pursued its mission of educational opportunity, responsiveness to the community, economic development and innovation in the public interest. The College educational offering are primarily Associates Degrees and Certificates. In all its programs, the college offers classes to suit the schedules of students such as a half semester “flexterm” format, evening and “earlybird” classes that can be taken after or before a student goes to work, and classes on Saturdays. As of the 2015-2016 school year, the school reported 22,043 students and was ranked the #1 Community College in the nation by the Aspen Institute.
He installed and plans more bachelor’s degree programs to fill unmet needs locally and statewide while remaining faithful to proven missions of access and opportunity for all students and improving the quality of life of the community.

He continues to enhance service to local communities by increasing and improving outreach education and supporting the disadvantaged. His East Gainesville Initiative has a continuing five-year plan to provide educational and cultural programs for all age groups in the community.

Dr. Sasser is committed to the arts in a comprehensive college education. He led development of SF’s Fine Arts Hall and the naming of the college as an All-Steinway School. The arts are woven throughout interdisciplinary education at Santa Fe.

Before arriving at Santa Fe, Dr. Sasser was president of Lee College in Baytown, Texas and interim president at Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama. He was 2008-2009 chair of the Board of Directors of the League for Innovation in the Community College, was 2007-2008 chair of the Florida Community College Council of Presidents, 2006-2007 president of the Florida Association of Colleges and Universities, and 2003-2004 chair and still a member of the American Association of Community Colleges Presidents Academy. He is a past member of the board of the Institute for Community College Development at Cornell University and participated in a University of Oxford Round Table on higher education.

Dr. Sasser chaired the 2004 United Way of North Central Florida campaign, was board chair of the American Heart Association of Gainesville’s 2005 Heart Walk, and with wife Layne Sasser was honorary chair of the 2007 March of Dimes’ Gainesville WalkAmerica. He is a member of the boards of the University of Florida Performing Arts, Heart of Florida, Santa Fe Health Care, Sebastian Ferrero Foundation, Gainesville Rotary and Alliance for Economic Development.

Dr. Jackson N. Sasser has been an innovator at Santa Fe College since becoming president in January 2002. He is one of the first in the United States to define community colleges as essential to national economic security because they educate knowledge workers necessary for American business and industry to succeed globally.

He has been a leader of Innovation Gainesville, which leverages regional assets including SF instructional programs to educate knowledge employees for high-end industry needed for jobs and economic development.

Dr. Sasser’s International Initiative wove internationalism into all academic and support programs at the college. He insists that community colleges are no longer strictly local institutions because their communities require graduates to thrive in a global economy.
Innovation Square is located directly adjacent to the University of Florida. This co-location provides with unmatched access to research infrastructure and technology at the University, as well as the intellectual capital of the academic researchers. This combination provides a highly livable, walkable, adaptable, and sustainable urban community within which significant research and associated activities thrive. At Innovation Square, amenities such as housing, retail, schools, and recreation are all within close proximity. Innovation Square has all the dynamics in place to empower forward-thinking companies to grow new connections and naturally develop fresh ideas.

One of the newest residence halls, Infinity Hall is the bridge between learning in the classroom and experiential learning. Built with Maker Space and creative labs, students who live in Infinity can collaborate, work on projects and connect with Gainesville professionals in the various creative fields.

The UF Innovation Hub is an elite program available only to applicants selected for admission. This facility provides state of the art office space for start-ups, mentoring and development support.

Innovation Hub at the University of Florida
www.floridainnovationhub.ufl.edu

@FLInnovationHub

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Mark S. Long
Biotechnology Director, Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator

The University of Florida Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator recently announced the appointment of its new director, Mark S. Long. An internationally recognized program fostering the growth of startup bioscience companies, the Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator, or SMBI, hired Long to help support its own continued growth.

Long replaced retiring director Patti Breedlove. Previously, he served as a senior lecturer in entrepreneurship at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in the department of management and entrepreneurship. On two occasions, he earned the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award for outstanding teaching. Long has an M.S. in molecular biology and a B.S. in biology from Florida State University.

He is also the president of Long Performance Advisors, a global consulting company focused on accelerating efforts in business incubation, technology transfer, small business development and economic development with clients in Russia, China, the Caribbean, Malaysia and throughout the U.S. Long also has extensive private sector experience in the biomedical industry having held management positions at Coulter Corp., Baxter Healthcare and Sigma Diagnostics.

From 2002 to 2008, he served as president and CEO of the Indiana University Research and Technology Corp., where he directed the IU Emerging Technologies Center and the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute. Prior to that, Long was director of technology operations for technology transfer at Washington University in St. Louis. He is a co-author of “Wholesale Economic Development” and “Put It in Writing II.”
David L. Day, ex vice president assistant of Technology Transfer at the University of Florida, says, “Mark has an outstanding reputation and brings a rare combination of insights into entrepreneurship, business incubation, science, and the biotechnology industry itself. He is the perfect choice to lead this internationally recognized program and work with our many partners to enhance the exciting biotech growth we’re seeing locally and across Florida.”

UF’s SMBI companies have attracted more than $1.3B in funding, created more than 2,000 area jobs and brought millions in revenue to city coffers. The recipient of four international and national awards, the Incubator provides space, equipment and support services to foster the growth of young bioscience companies. SMBI also developed and maintains the Florida Biodatabase.

In April, the University of Florida welcomed Jim O’Connell to Gainesville. After a thorough national search, UF selected O’Connell as the new assistant vice president for technology transfer and the director of the Office of Technology Licensing.

O’Connell oversees the Office of Technology Licensing (OTL) program and is responsible for two business incubators, the Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute and the Innovation Hub at UF. OTL transfers technologies arising from the discoveries of UF faculty and staff to the marketplace in order to enhance the university’s educational and research missions.

As the director of OTL, O’Connell hopes not only to continue the upward climb of the office, but he also intends to join with UF President Kent Fuchs in making the university one of the Top 5 in the nation in research and tech transfer. He comes into the position with a broad range of experiences.

O’Connell served in the United States Air Force as a chief evaluator helicopter pilot and still flies helicopters on occasions.

Lee Nelson
Director of Real Estate, University of Florida

Lee Nelson joined the University of Florida as Director of Real Estate in September, 2014. He is responsible for real estate strategic planning, asset management, and transaction management for the University and associated philanthropic Foundation.

Prior to the University, he was Director of Real Estate Services at the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, where he worked with the 31 schools of the System to coordinate and execute real estate issues and transactions. Issues he has tackled include development of satellite campus facilities, land transactions, underwriting and due diligence for acquisitions of properties for the use of the institutions, and coordination of activities to adhere to Board policies and procedures.

Jim O’Connell
Director of Technology Transfer, University of Florida
Kathy Sohar
Assistant Director, Women’s Entrepreneurial Programs, with Warrington College of Business

Dr. Sohar is the Assistant Director for Women’s Entrepreneurial Programs with the UF Warrington College of Business. As part of the UF Innovation Hub’s new Collaboratory for Women Innovators, she combines her experience in technology commercialization, incubation, entrepreneurship, educational outreach and women’s advocacy to further promote diversity and inclusion within local and national startup communities. A seasoned executive with over 20 years of experience in the telecommunications field Dr. Sohar is the former Assistant Director for the Innovation Hub at the University of Florida, a 48,000 sq ft. technology incubator, an early employee in two technology start-up companies, managed a 20+ land-grant university emerging technology collaborative, and has served as an evaluator and best practices technical trainer for statewide educational technology grants. She is co-founder of Empowering Women in Technology Startups (Ewits) a 10-week experiential program designed to educate, inspire and empower women to pursue leadership roles in technology-based companies. She also currently serves as the Chair for the AUTM Women’s Inventor Committee (WIC) which has the mission to increase women’s participation in the commercialization process. She is the past Chair of the AUTM/WIC Metrics committee and in that role led the first baseline survey of university technology transfer offices regarding gender tracking, as well as successful follow up outreach efforts to engage more universities to begin innovator gender tracking. In addition to her work with AUTM, she has participated in other large-scale team projects including research for the State of Florida Department of Health and Florida Department of Education and has taught at the university level. She is also a mentor for Girls Rock! Gainesville, a week-long camp that teaches girls 8-17 empowerment through music and is the founder and past President of Techie Toastmasters. Kathy holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Connecticut and earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in Mass Communication at the University of Florida. She has won several awards for her work on innovation projects and frequent guest speaker on innovation, entrepreneurship and gender panels.

Antonietta Restuccia
Doctoral Student
Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida

Antonietta Restuccia is a doctoral student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Florida. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and her Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Florida. Her research interests focus on the development of nanomaterials and protein therapeutics. Restuccia is interested in transferring technologies from research laboratories to the marketplace. She holds two provisional patent applications on technologies she helped develop in Dr. Gregory Hudalla research laboratory, and she recently completed the Empowering Women in Technology Startup (EWITS) program from the Innovation Hub at the University of Florida.
Sid Martin Biotech Incubator
www.sidmartinbio.org/beta/

Sid Martin has graduated over 50+ companies who garnered over $1.62b in revenues, grants, and M&A activity, and over 85% of those companies are still in business five years after graduation. Sid Martin is one of the most successful programs in biotech, winning the International Business Innovation Association’s Global Incubator of the Year in 2013 and again in 2017, in addition to winning the Global Science and Technology Incubator of the Year award in 2017.

Merrie Shaw
Assistant Director of the University of Florida’s

Merrie Shaw is the Assistant Director of the University of Florida’s pioneering Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator program. Sid Martin companies have attracted over 1.6 billion dollars in investment, grants, contracts, and M&A activity. Sid Martin has won the INBIA Global Incubator of the Year in 2013 and again in 2017, in addition to winning the Global Science and Technology Incubator of the Year award in 2017.

Merrie has held a leadership role in fostering the development of Progress Corporate Park which is now home to over 35 companies with 1100 employees. She is a 4th generation Floridian and was past board member and president of Gainesville Area Innovation Network (GAIN), current board member of the Alachua Business League, CenterState Bank, Santa Fe’s Perry Center’s Technology Advisory Committee and the Progress Park Association board.

Prior to the Incubator, Shaw worked for 15 years as an Orthopedic Physician’s assistant and then assisted various hospital foundations with fund raising.

@UFSidMartinBio

The Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute is a world-recognized leader in biotechnology business incubation – and with terrific laboratories and specialized equipment, plus an outstanding network of mentors, advisors and collaborators. Sid Martin has graduated over 50+ companies who
The Charles R. and Nancy V. Perry Center for Emerging Technologies
www.sfcollege.edu/locations/ perry-center/index

The Charles R. and Nancy V. Perry Center for Emerging Technologies is located in Alachua, Fla., the heart of Florida's high-tech corridor, about 13 miles from Santa Fe's Northwest Campus. The Perry Center provides citizens of northern Alachua County an opportunity for a college education close to home. The Perry Center focuses specifically on emerging technology degrees. The 30,000 square foot building opened in 2009 and has functioning laboratories and state-of-the-art technology classrooms. The Perry Center is intentionally located near Santa Fe High School, which offers a biotechnology program that articulates to the SF Biotechnology A.S. degree, and across the street from Progress Corporate Park. Progress Park, a growing industrial park with approximately 1,000 employees, is anchored by the University of Florida's Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator, RTI Surgical, Intermed, and graduates of the UF Sid Martin Incubator —NanoTherapeutics, Banyan Biomarkers and Axogen.

Eileen Monck
the Academic Director of the Santa Fe College Perry Center for Emerging Technologies in Alachua, FL

Eileen Monck is the Academic Director of the Santa Fe College Perry Center for Emerging Technologies in Alachua, FL. She oversees the Industrial Biotechnology and the Clinical Laboratory Sciences bachelor degree programs, as well as the Biotechnology, Chemical Technology, and Biomedical Equipment Repair Technology Associate Degree programs. Eileen's philosophy is that every graduating student should be prepared and confident before entering the workforce. Subsequently, the Perry Center for Emerging Technologies provides program specific course and lab work in order to meet the current workforce demands.

Eileen's work experience as a technician spans over a decade while contributing to research in feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), para-influenza, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) nephritis, Alzheimer's disease, the role of melanocortin receptors in obesity, neurofibromatosis, and nerve regeneration. She received a master's degree in Environmental Toxicology at the University of Florida in 2003. She continued her graduate studies in Pharmacology at Michigan State University and is currently a doctoral candidate in Health Sciences at Stills University.
Gary A. Ascani  
**Vice President, Business Development, Nanotherapeutics**

He is officially the Director, Corporate Relations for Ology Bioservices, formerly Nanotherapeutics in 2011 and has more than 35 years of experience in the biotechnology and medical products industries. He served in senior level positions at Hyland Labs, a Division of Baxter - Travenol, Monoclonal Antibodies, Inc., Molecular Analysis, Inc., T Cell Diagnostics, Diamedix, Inc. a division of Ivax Corp., and Banyan Biomarkers, Inc. Mr. Ascani also co-founded Vulcan Medical Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm focused on seed stage venture financing. In 2001, VMV closed a Series A Preferred Stock Financing for PNP Therapeutics, Inc. (PNP Inc.) at which time Mr. Ascani became PNP's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Jackson Streeter  
**Chief Executive Officer, Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research**  
**Chief Medical Officer, Banyan Biomarkers, Inc.**

In March 2016, Jackson Streeter M.D. assumed the role of CEO of the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research (the Institute). The Institute is a diversified early stage fund for Florida based companies and has 72 portfolio companies to date. The fund has generated over $970M in economic impact and state funding has been matched 7:1 in private investment. Dr. Streeter previously served as the CEO of Banyan Biomarkers, Inc. from 2010 to 2016. As CEO of Banyan Biomarkers, the company received over $70M from the Dept. of Defense and NIH, and raised $11M in private investment for the development of a first ever blood test for traumatic brain injury. Prior to joining Banyan Biomarkers, Dr. Streeter served as the Founder, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer of PhotoThera, Inc. During his tenure at PhotoThera, Dr. Streeter raised over $120M of invested capital and was responsible for the design and management of five U.S. and international clinical trials. He was also the co-founder of American Veterinary Laser which was acquired in a private transaction. He is the inventor on over twenty patents and author on multiple scientific publications. He is the winner of the Zone ventures entrepreneur and Adaptive Business Leader awards. Dr. Streeter served as a member of the Governor’s Life Science Task Force for the State of Florida and FBI counter terrorism southeast working group. He currently serves on the Wallace H. Coulter Center for Translational Research Oversight Committee, Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator board, and Cade Museum board. Dr. Streeter earned his B.S. degree in Biology from the University of Nevada Reno and his M.D. from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Prior to becoming a medical industry executive, Dr. Streeter served as an Officer in the U.S. Navy, completing a general surgery internship at Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia and then primary Flight School at Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida. During his military service, Dr. Streeter was the first Naval Flight Surgeon selected as a TOPGUN staff instructor, served on several overseas deployments and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal (2) and the Navy Commendation Medal.
In 2014, Davenport led an effort to develop a five-year economic development strategy, Transforming Greater Gainesville, and successfully led the Council for Economic Outreach in raising over $6 million in regional investment to launch and implement the strategy. The five-year plan is designed to transform the region into a global hub of talent, innovation and opportunity through four key strategies. Among Davenport’s many other achievements since joining the Gainesville Area Chamber are facilitating and executing more advocacy and communications efforts to bolster and demonstrate business community support for Envision Alachua and numerous other regional developments as well as the recent announcement of a pilot program distinguishing Gainesville as the first Florida city to partner with Uber to meet senior transportation needs.

Prior to coming to the Gainesville Area Chamber, Davenport was the Senior Vice President of Global Technology Strategies for the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. While there, she served as a key team member for the Opportunity Austin strategy, which created over 174,000 new jobs and enhanced regional payrolls by $8.7 billion over an eight-year period from 2004-2012. During her tenure in Austin she developed and executed Austin’s regional business retention and expansion program, Portfolio Austin, where over 4,800 regional retention visits were undertaken with 520 regional expansions tracked. She also developed and managed the Central Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization, which resulted in assisting 34 companies in accessing $60 million in funding with an additional $30 million for local research and university projects. Susan also developed the Greater Austin Technology Partnership and Austin TechLive, which engaged over 100 regional technology executives in various economic development activities and supported entrepreneurism through a downtown co-working technology hub partner.

Davenport attended the University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs, where she earned a Master’s Degree in Public Affairs. She also graduated from the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and is associated with the International Economic Development Council and the Association of the Chamber of Commerce Executives. Before developing an interest in economics, Davenport earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and practiced as a registered nurse for five years. Davenport was born in Texas and grew up in Tupelo, Miss.

Susan Davenport
President / CEO, Gainesville Chamber of Commerce

As President/CEO, Susan is responsible for oversight of all Chamber activities, as well as developing and managing a comprehensive economic development program for the Gainesville, Florida MSA with specific focus on marketing, new business attraction, business retention and expansion and capital formation for early stage companies.

A seasoned executive and economic developer, Davenport has more than 15 years of experience recruiting companies in industries such as IT/Software, Biotechnology and others, to regions rich in the resources they need to thrive. Since joining the Gainesville Area Chamber as its Vice President of Economic Development in 2013, Davenport has been instrumental in attracting nearly 750 jobs and more than $400 million in capital investment to the region. Now as President/CEO, Davenport oversees the Chamber staff and serves as an officer on the organization’s Board of Directors.

Davenport attended the University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs, where she earned a Master’s Degree in Public Affairs. She also graduated from the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and is associated with the International Economic Development Council and the Association of the Chamber of Commerce Executives. Before developing an interest in economics, Davenport earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and practiced as a registered nurse for five years. Davenport was born in Texas and grew up in Tupelo, Miss.
Tallahassee, the capital of Florida and the county seat of Leon County, is the political and legal center for Florida. Ranked in the top 25 percent for global innovation (Innovation Cities Program) and top 50 City for Entrepreneurs (Entrepreneur Magazine, 2016), Tallahassee–Leon County is not only the political capital of Florida, but also Florida's capital for business. Florida, the third most populous state in the nation, had the fastest growing GDP of the five most populated U.S. states in 2016. Tallahassee–Leon County is a powerful driver of this growth with an annual GDP of $14.7 billion and counting; in fact, per capita GDP growth outpaced the United States in 2016 and is the fastest growing MSA in the State of Florida. Given that 40% of all U.S. exports to Latin and South America go through Florida, it is not a surprise that the Capital sees such high levels of commerce. The easy access to transportation via the Tallahassee International Airport, CSX, Interstate 10, U.S. Route 27, U.S. Route 90, and U.S. Route 319 provides ready and flexible movability for people and goods traveling through the city.

HIGHER LEARNING AND INNOVATION

Burgeoning robotics, high performance materials, biotechnology, aeropropulsion, magnetics, and advanced manufacturing industries tap into research and development innovation through partnerships with two major local institutions: Florida State University and Florida A&M University. Florida State University, one of only two preeminent universities in the State of Florida and ranked one of the best universities for technology transfer (Milken Institute, 2017), is home to the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (“Mag Lab”), the largest and highest-powered magnet lab in the world and only national laboratory in the Southeastern United States. Combined with its strong regional ties, the lab also hosts more than 1,600 visiting researchers from around the globe each year. MagLab seeks to expand its user base in South and Central America in the near future.

Florida A&M University, the oldest and largest among historically black colleges and universities, was ranked 7th best in the nation in 2017. Together, these institutional assets offer ample opportunities for R&D partnerships and a highly educated workforce. In fact, Tallahassee–Leon County is ranked as the 10th most educated city the United States (WalletHub, 2016). Additionally, Tallahassee–Leon County's commitment to expand local workforce access to tech jobs and support local employer demand earned a TechHire designation from the White House in 2016, making it one of only 50 communities in the United States to hold this title.

The MagLab is a research and innovation powerhouse that has given local businesses a competitive edge in R&D and tech transfer. An example of this is Danfoss Turbocor Compressors, a global company that’s established local roots due to its innovative partnerships with local research institutions, and continues to grow because of these rewarding relationships. Danfoss is the worldwide leading manufacturer of oil-less compressors for commercial HVACs, using magnetic bearing technology developed at the MagLab. The partnership has not only amplified Danfoss’ business and reach, but it has also created a viable pipeline for local talent.

The environment created by these outstanding institutions has caused Tallahassee to be ranked 18 in best college towns in the U.S. by Best College Review. Also, the research opportunities available at these facilities have led Tallahassee to be ranked as a Top 25% of Cities for Global Innovation (Innovation-Cities.com, 2016). For its cutting edge technology, the city boasts being the most wired city in the U.S. The current unemployment rate falls at a low 3.7%, marking a strong economy when combined with the technological advances of the city.

INVESTMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about how significant public investments in infrastructure have fueled private investment and increased the community’s economic competitiveness. The adoption of a one penny sales tax – 12 percent of which is allotted for economic development – has resulted in world class, multi-use public infrastructure that will sustain the forecasted population boom and influx in strategic targeted industries. Cascades Park, a stormwater facility that doubles as a unique urban park and winner of the 2016 “Great Places in Florida” award, is a prime example of the nexus between capital investments, urban planning, public health, and economic development. This facility benefits both
citizens and businesses in the adjacent downtown and South Side communities by relieving flooding; attracting foot traffic through recreation and events; and improving connectivity and traffic flow between the FAMU, Downtown, and College Town districts. $1.2 billion in additional planned projects from the Planning, Land Management and Community Enhancement (PLACE) Division will also drive economic development in Tallahassee-Leon County to create an even more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
In addition to infrastructure, public-private partnerships cultivate a fertile business and entrepreneurial climate. Public investment helped launch Domi Station, Leon County’s first incubator, which has generated local startups with international reach, such as the globally recognized RMS-HWind. A private donation of $100 million also helped establish the FSU Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship, and university engagement and commercialization continues to feed an innovative talent pipeline.

A thriving creative class also nurtures Tallahassee-Leon County’s unique local flavor, culture, and sense of place. The Gaines Street/College Town and Railroad Square Art Park districts are two living examples of the benefits of placemaking, urban design, and the creative economy. The Gaines Street revitalization project turned a warehouse-lined corridor into an artsy, walkable local business and entertainment destination, with a return of $195.8 million in private investment and a $150 million post-development taxable value.

Florida State University + Dedman School of Hospitality

One of the nation’s elite research universities, Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of liberal arts and critical thinking. FSU’s welcoming campus is located on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, in a community that fosters free inquiry and embraces diversity, along with championship athletics, and a prime location in the heart of the state capital.

Established in 1947, Florida State University’s Dedman School of Hospitality is a favored hiring source for managers of the world’s leading hotels, restaurants, clubs, and resorts. School administrators and faculty members work with top industry organizations, executives, and alumni to provide students with a relevant curriculum, valuable internship experiences, and networking/mentorship opportunities. Graduates are prepared to fill the growing global demand for multicultural awareness in hospitality managers and experience high industry placement rates.
Vince Long
Leon County Administrator

Long has a Master’s in Public Administration (MPA) from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University (FSU) where he has served on the adjunct faculty teaching graduate courses in local government for over a decade. He has also served for many years on the faculty of the Florida Association of Counties’ County Commissioner Certification Program. Vince is also a graduate of the Harvard University, JFK School of Government Institute for Senior Executives in State and Local Government and has earned the recognition of “Credentialed Manager” by the International City/County Managers Association (ICCMA).

Vince has served on the Board of Directors for the Florida City/County Managers Association (FCCMA) and as President of the Florida Association of County Managers (FACM). He has also served on numerous special committees to the State Legislature advising on local government and public policy issues affecting the state.

Long is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee and Leadership Florida. He is a member of many statewide and community organizations, having served on the Board of Directors of Leadership Florida and the United Way of the Big Bend. In 2013, he was named Leader of the Year by Leadership Tallahassee. Vince and his wife, Julann, have three children, Kellen, Jack and Riley.

Commissioner Kristin Dozier
Leon County Commission

First elected to the Commission in November 2010, Kristin is serving her first term as a Leon County Commissioner representing District 5. Prior to her election, Kristin was the Green Building Advisor and Vice President of Mad Dog Construction. She held many positions during her eleven-year tenure with Mad Dog, including Administrative Assistant, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. As a Green Building Advisor and Vice President, Kristin worked on LEED projects and has lectured throughout North Florida on the benefits of sustainable construction and business practices. Kristin is a LEED Accredited Professional.

A third generation Tallahasseean, Kristin attended Concord Elementary, Hartsfield Elementary, Fairview Middle School and SAIL High School, where she served as Student Body President. Kristin holds an Associate’s degree from Tallahassee Community College (1996), a Bachelor’s degree in Religion (2001) and a Master’s degree in Religious Ethics and Philosophy (2003), both from Florida State University (FSU). She completed coursework in a Ph.D. program focused on Comparative Religious Ethics, Catholic Moral Theology, and Human Rights Ethics. For three and a half years, she also taught an undergraduate course in religious ethics at FSU.

Kristin has always taken community service seriously. She is a member of the Whole Child Leon Steering Committee, a former member of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Founding President of Sustainable Tallahassee and a Founding Member of the Florida Capitol Region Chapter of the US Green Building Council. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the Mary Brogan Museum, is currently active in her community and is a member of many statewide and community organizations, having served on the Board of Directors of Leadership Tallahassee, the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Founding President of Sustainable Tallahassee and a Founding Member of the Florida Capitol Region Chapter of the US Green Building Council.

Kristin is a LEED Accredited Professional.

Vince Long
Leon County Administrator

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Curtis Richardson
Mayor Pro-Tempore

Mayor Pro-Tempore Curtis Richardson has served on the Tallahassee City Commission since 2014. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology and a master’s degree in School Psychology, both from Florida State University, and a master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of West Florida. His career began in the Gadsden County School System before taking him to the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Governor’s Office, private industry and public office. Prior to serving on the City Commission, Richardson was elected to serve on the Leon County School Board, where he was the first black male elected to the post, and the Florida House of Representatives. In the Legislature, he was a champion of public education, an advocate for government employees and a proponent for accessible, affordable healthcare for all citizens. Richardson was recognized for his work by being named Legislator of the Year. Beyond his service in elected office, he has and continues to serve in numerous civic capacities, ranging from neighborhood associations to the March of Dimes.

Don Farr, Director
FSU Dedman School of Hospitality

Dr. Farr serves as the director of the Dedman School of Hospitality. Dr. Farr came to Florida State University in 2007 to direct the college’s PGA Golf Management program. In 2013, he became the assistant director of the Dedman School of Hospitality. He also served as the Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Business from 2015 to August 2016. Prior to coming to FSU, he managed a private equity golf club and two golf resorts in the Pinehurst area of North Carolina.

Gaines Street Corridor

The Gaines Street Corridor has been transformed into a bustling district, thanks to $300 million in private investment. Once a roadway filled with old, tired warehouses, Gaines Street is now home to residential, commercial, and retail units at the nexus of Florida State University’s and Florida A&M University’s campuses and downtown Tallahassee. The corridor is experiencing even greater growth with the more than $225 million in projects under construction or in the pipeline for more mixed-use residential and commercial properties.
Hotel Duval

Located in the heart of downtown Tallahassee, Florida, the historic Hotel Duval is the capital city’s first and only boutique hotel. The original Hotel Duval opened in 1951 and quickly earned a reputation as the ‘place to see-and-be-seen’ in Tallahassee. The property has since served as a variety of businesses including a drug store, barber shop, radio station, restaurant, dormitory, and office space. After undergoing a massive renovation in the early 2000s, the hotel expanded and upgraded to become the world class hotel it is today. The Hotel Duval remains an iconic landmark in Florida’s Capital City paying homage to its role in Tallahassee history.

Mark Powell
PhD, Vice-President, Model Development, RMS/H-Wind

Mark D. Powell, Vice President for Model Development at Risk Management Solutions (RMS), leads the RMS office in Tallahassee Florida. For over 30 years, Dr. Powell served as a scientist at NOAA’s Hurricane Research Division in Miami, where he invented the HWIND technology for high definition hurricane impact mapping. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and holds the AMS Certified Consulting Meteorologist designation. He has published over 80 papers in a variety of peer-reviewed journals on the hurricane boundary layer, air-sea interaction in extreme winds, new metrics for hurricane destructive potential, and hurricane risk. He also served as a developer and Meteorology Team Leader for the Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model.
Edward Mansouri  
CEO/Founder, WeatherSTEM

Edward is the founder and chief executive officer of WeatherSTEM. He’s led the firm since its founding in 1996. He authored the Educator Learning Management System, Ucompass’ flagship product used to instruct over 2 million students and counting. He has a passion for finding ways to innovate education through technology. In addition to Educator, he architected Octane, a platform for enriching content, and he developed the UcompOS Rich Productivity Framework, a developer framework for building rich portal applications. Recently, he developed the WeatherSTEM platform for combining data from scientific instruments and sensors with STEM curriculum. He has Bachelor’s degrees in Engineering and Meteorology from Penn State University and a Master’s degree in Meteorology from Florida State University.

Ryan Truchelut  
Ph.D., Co-founder, President, and Chief Meteorologist, WeatherTiger

Dr. Truchelut possesses unique expertise in both operational forecasting and research science. In his eleven years as a lead professional meteorologist, he has provided mission-critical forecast guidance and consulting to satisfied clients across the full spectrum of agricultural markets, including producers, processors, end-users, and traders. Ryan’s comprehensive knowledge of client needs and deep background in mid- and long-range forecasting, quantification of extreme event risk, and innovative product development are at the forefront of the field, and inform every WeatherTiger forecast.

Ryan graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University with a bachelor’s degree in Geosciences, and received master’s and doctoral degrees in meteorology from Florida State University. As first author of multiple peer-reviewed scientific publications, Ryan’s research is focused on tropical cyclone risk, seasonal forecasting, and predictive analytics, and has been presented at numerous national and international meteorology conferences. He has also been the recipient of the NASA Earth Science Enterprise Fellowship and the Max Mayfield Award in Weather Forecasting from the American Meteorological Society.

In the occasional moments when he is not watching the weather, Ryan is an accomplished runner and mountain climber, with some of his many other interests including birdwatching, guitar, and America’s national parks.
David F. Zierden
Florida State Climatologist

David Zierden earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology in 1996 at Florida State University. He followed that with a Master of Science in Meteorology under the direction of Dr. James J. O’Brien, then director of FSU’s Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies. Following graduation, David served under Dr. O’Brien, a recognized world leader in ocean modeling and climate application studies, as the Assistant State Climatologist from 1998 through 2005. In 2006, Mr. Zierden was appointed State Climatologist and has served that role ever since.

David is a full member of the American Association of State Climatologist and the American Meteorological Society, and the Florida Climate Institute. He has published journal articles on satellite meteorology, climate variability and wildfire threat, and applications to agriculture in the Southeast U.S. and presented these findings at many professional conferences. He is well known among growers, producers, and Extension in the Southeast for providing seasonal climate forecasts and presents this information at many workshops, trade shows, and commodity meetings. David Zierden is involved in many other climate applications projects in Florida and the Southeast involving agriculture, water resources, environment, and human health.

David Zierden grew up in Panama City, but has lived in Tallahassee since 1995. He is married to Pastor Betsy Ouellette-Zierden and has two teenage children, Ian and Adam. Growing up in the outdoors and continuing to enjoy fishing, surfing, skiing, and running, helped spur his interest in weather and climate.

Susan S. Fiorito
Dean, FSU Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship

Dr. Susan S. Fiorito is the Director of the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship, Jim Moran Professor of Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneur in Residence. Dr. Fiorito has been a faculty member at FSU since 1990. She was an owner of four apparel, leather goods and turquoise jewelry stores in Atlanta, GA and owner of a wholesale leather goods company until 1980. In addition to teaching at FSU she has also taught and conducted research at the University of Iowa, Florida International University and the University of Stirling in Scotland where she taught graduate level courses and developed a module for their Executive MBA program.

Dr. Fiorito’s research focuses on retailing, small business management and buying and has been featured in a variety of academic journals, including International Journal of Research and Distribution Management, the Journal of Retailing, and Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice. She has received research grants totaling nearly $170K. In addition, she taught summer study abroad courses in Milan, Paris and London for six years and spent one year on sabbatical at the University of Stirling in Scotland. She has received three University teaching awards, and was selected to be one of three inaugural Jim Moran Institute Faculty Fellows in 2010.

She was the first female president from 1992-94 of the American Collegiate Retailing Association since the Association’s inception in 1949 and she is currently the treasurer, also a first for a woman, to hold this position for two consecutive terms. She was appointed to the Board for the Florida Retail Federation in 2003 and has served faithfully since that time. Dr. Fiorito contributes to several university, college and department committees.
Florida A&M University

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues, and the empowerment of citizens and communities. It provides a student-centered environment consistent with its core values, whose faculty is committed to educating students at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional levels, and preparing graduates to apply their knowledge, critical thinking skills, and creativity in their service to society. FAMU's distinction as a doctoral/research institution will continue to provide mechanisms to address emerging issues through local and global partnerships. Expanding upon FAMU's land-grant status, it will enhance the lives of constituents through innovative research, engaging cooperative extension, and public service.

While it continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, FAMU embraces persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities as life-long members of the university community.

The Honorable Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor of Tallahassee

With a passion for public service, and the ability to motivate and mobilize people to action, Mayor Andrew D. Gillum is recognized as a transformative statewide and national leader. At the age of 23, Gillum, while still a student at Florida A&M University (FAMU) majoring in political science, became the youngest person ever elected to the Tallahassee City Commission. He was then re-elected to serve for a full four-year term, and was subsequently re-elected in 2008 and August 2012.

During his 12 years of service on the City Commission, Mayor Gillum played a leadership role in countless community initiatives and decisions that have helped improve the community's overall quality of life, as well as ignited the economic vitality of the City. It was this steadfast leadership that led Gillum to be elected Mayor in 2014 with 76% of the vote in a three way race.

Since taking office, he has set a bold and progressive agenda to move the City and Region forward, both socially and economically, and has launched initiatives related to investing in early childhood development, growing entrepreneurship and innovation, supporting the development of arts and culture, and creating economic opportunities for those who need it most.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his passion and service over the years, and has been named an emerging leader by the Congressional Black Caucus, Jet Magazine, Ebony Magazine, the Association of Trial Lawyers for America (ATLA), The Drum Major Institute, and the Washington Post. He is also a 2015 Rodel Fellow, a 2015 Root 100 Top Influencer, and was named one of “14 Democrats to Watch” by the New York Times. Gillum resides in Tallahassee, Florida with his wife, R. Jai, and their children Caroline, Jackson, and Davis.

The Honorable Andrew D. Gillum
Mayor of Tallahassee
Larry Robinson is a Distinguished Professor in the School of the Environment (SOE) at Florida A&M University (FAMU). Previously he served as the Interim President at FAMU from July 2012 to April 2014, Director of FAMU’s Environmental Sciences Institute from 1997 to 2003, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2003 to 2005, Interim President in 2007, and Vice President for Research in 2009. From 2001 to 2010, he served as Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Environmental Cooperative Science Center housed at FAMU. His research interests include environmental chemistry, environmental radiochemistry and environmental policy and management. In 2007-2009, Robinson served as Senior Scientific Advisor at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service. In May 2010, Robinson took a leave of absence from FAMU to serve in a U.S. Senate confirmed position as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Conservation and Management at NOAA. While there, he supported and managed NOAA’s coastal and marine programs, including marine sanctuaries for preserving areas of special national significance, fisheries management and preparation of nautical charts. He also supported NOAA’s participation in addressing the BP oil spill crisis and served on the Ocean Policy Task Force and Gulf Coast Restoration Task Force. In addition to his US Senate Confirmation Hearing in March 2010, Robinson testified at a US House of Representatives Hearing on “Combating the BP Oil Spill” in May 2010 and a US Senate Hearing on “The Use of Dispersants for the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill” in July 2010.

Robinson was asked to return to the university as a special assistant to the FAMU president in November 2011 and was selected again as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in March 2012. In 1984 - 1997, Robinson served as a Research Scientist and Group Leader of a neutron activation analysis (NAA) facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, (ORNL). His research responsibilities at ORNL included trace element analysis in environmental science, epidemiology, forensics, material science and paleontology; environmental radiochemistry; and nuclear safeguards and non-proliferation.
Timothy Moore
Vice-President of Research, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

Timothy E. Moore, Ph.D. is Vice President for Research at Florida A&M University and as such, oversees all University research activities and is responsible for the advancement of FAMU’s academic mission through sponsored programs, contracts, and grants. In addition, he leads the University’s efforts in technology transfer, protection of intellectual property, and licensing and commercialization. He is also responsible for the ethics of animal welfare and research integrity. Moore received a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Wofford College (Spartanburg, SC), a Master of Science degree in biology and microbiology from North Carolina State University (Raleigh, NC), and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in kinesiology/exercise physiology from Auburn (Alabama) University. His dissertation title: “Novel Approach for Assessment and Mitigation of Heat-Stress Adverse Effects” has two patents pending.

Dr. Moore has more than two decades of experience in federal, private, and academic research and development experience, including his most recent service as associate vice president for institutional advancement and research program development at Auburn University. Moore has extensive leadership experience in the areas of: strategic planning, oversight of research center development and promotions, licensing, commercialization and technology transfer, advancement of student research, fundraising, and partnership development.

Moore has been the architect of a number of “firsts” during his career, including securing more than $180 million in competitive federal contract awards in the past two decades across a variety of federal agencies. He also led the proposal development for the largest competitive award in Auburn University’s history, the Equine Source Plasma Program, to produce equine-derived antibodies for use in an FDA-licensed Botulinum antitoxin vaccine, which generated more than $50 million in sales over 10 years and was anticipated to produce 500 new jobs for the region.

Vice President Moore previously served as the director of federal research program development at the National Agricultural Biosecurity Center at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., and led a federal Homeland Security contract to invest more than $200 million in a new agricultural disease center research complex. He also served as market sector manager for multiple product lines, including the Army and Marine Corps’ business activities at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., where he oversaw the business activities for the nation’s fourth largest national laboratory. Prior to his academic career, Moore served as an active duty Army officer from 1985 to 1992, including a post as the director of the U.S. Army’s Chemical Weapons Defense Laboratory in Dugway Proving Ground in Utah.
Heidi Otway is experienced in all aspects of media strategy, communications planning, and community engagement.

Over the past decade, she’s lead numerous media and public relations campaigns using a full range of tactics, including paid media, earned media, social/digital media and grassroots mobilization. Heidi has developed statewide campaigns and secured media coverage for clients such as Bank of America, Weyerhaeuser (formerly Plum Creek), Verizon, The Able Trust, Florida Impact and the Independent Benefits Council. She is also a recognized leader in social media engagement, creating new strategies and tactics to initiate and maintain a two-way dialogue with “digital citizens.”

A former journalist and television news manager, Heidi earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism from Florida A&M University.

Kimberly Moore has spent over a decade in the workforce development arena. She currently serves as the Vice President for Workforce Innovation at Tallahassee Community College (TCC). In the position of Vice President, she is responsible for developing strategic solutions that address the needs of employers and those seeking to enter and transition in the workforce. Prior to joining TCC, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of WORKFORCE PLUS, a recognized regional workforce development board, becoming the youngest person, the first African-American and the first woman to hold this top position.

Ms. Moore is a 1993 graduate of Tallahassee Community College with an Associate of Arts degree. She continued her education at Florida State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1995. In May 2006, she earned her M.B.A from Webster University.
Dominick Ard’is
Director of Incubation Programs and Operations, Domi Station

Serving as Director of Incubation Programs and Operations, Dominick Ard’is, or Dom as he’s known around the coworking space, is a dynamic individual with a rich experience in startups and the business of technology.

In the past, Ard’is has founded and operated a startup, taught leadership and professional development at FAMU, and consulted fortune 50 and 100 companies with Booz Allen Hamilton. He’s also a certified User Experience (UX) Architect from the Nielsen Norman Group. Now, he’s bringing all of that expertise and more to Domi Station.

Jodi Chase
CEO, FullScaleNANO

Jodi Chase is the CEO FullScaleNANO. FullScaleNANO is the best in the world at converting images of nanomaterials into data.

Prior to FullScale, Jodi founded of The Chase Firm, a Precision Intelligence firm providing deep research to some of the world’s most successful hedge funds and private equity firms. She successfully exited that company.

Before building businesses, Jodi built a law practice as a partner in a law firm and served as the General Counsel and lead lobbyist for the most respected business association in the southeast. Jodi approaches everything with a deep passion for winning, whether selling products, obtaining funding, influencing important business legislation, representing national and international clients, or running marathons.

Jodi graduated from Florida State twice, once with a degree in Communications. She returned to FSU after a short career in television and graduated from the FSU College of Law. Jodi is married and has two very successful kids, one of whom has the entrepreneurial bug and started his own business.
With more than 15 years, managing multimillion dollar enterprise technology projects, Eduardo is an award-winning information technology expert, mentor, recognized speaker, and CEO at Uber Operations, a leading health care technology company. Eduardo plays a critical role in the continued development of the company’s strategic growth, including partnership and supplier relationships, ensuring flexibility and growth in response to an increasingly demanding marketplace. Since joining Uber Operations, Eduardo has helped grow the business into a multi-million dollar company with over 20 clients in public and private healthcare. At Uber Operations, among other projects Eduardo is leading the Assoc. of Public Health Laboratory (APHL) and CDC national health information exchange hub focusing on public health reporting and national disease surveillance.

Prior to joining Uber Operations, Eduardo served as Project Manager at Stanford International Bank in Antigua, West Indies. While at Stanford, Eduardo managed all facets of the technology at the bank including several high profile banking system implementations in Antigua, Panama, Venezuela, and Canada. He also served as the Disaster Coordinator leading the creation and implementation of a revolutionary Business Continuity Plan.

Eduardo, a Cuban-American born in Miami, Florida, attended Loyola University, New Orleans earning a bachelor’s degree in Finance as well as in Computer Information Systems. While working full time, he subsequently received his Executive MBA in 2007 from the University of Miami, where he was the recipient of the Recognized Student of the Year Award.

Eduardo is fluent in English, Spanish, has a working knowledge of Portuguese, and has traveled on business to over 15 countries. Eduardo is an active member of the Technology industry and an advocate for the Latino and Small Business communities. He serves in a number of organizations and attends numerous conferences and technology events serving as an expert on entrepreneurship, project management, and Latino leadership. Eduardo is a member of the HIMSS (CPHIMS certified) Latino Community, The Project Management Institute (PMP certified), The Florida Latino Professional Association and the Immediate Past President of the University of Miami Alumni Club in Tallahassee. He was recently named one of North Florida’s top entrepreneurs under the age of 40.

Eduardo is a big believer in volunteerism and helping others. In this vein, he has participated in two missionary trips to the Dominican Republic where medical assistance was offered and medicines distributed.

Eduardo is also founder of the Gonzalez Loumiet Group, AeroClinica, #TeamTCB and co-founder of Business Continuity Management Professionals (BCMPros).

Eduardo is also a professor at Florida A&M University where he teaches health information management and healthcare quality.
Keith Bowers is the Regional Director of the FSBDC at Florida A&M University and has served in this capacity for over four years. Prior to his appointment as Regional Director, Mr. Bowers founded and operated the Bowers Group, a consulting firm specializing in community development, affordable housing and economic development.

Keith graduated from Florida A&M University in 1989. Upon graduating, Keith was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and has proudly served in the United States Army Reserves as Captain and Adjutant General of the Joint Detention Operations Group in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and also Captain and Commander of U.S. Army Postal Operations in Bosnia.

Mr. Bowers has held various positions in the corporate arena including; Community Re-Investment Act Officer for Peoples First Community Bank where he directed the community-based reinvestment activities of a $600 million financial institution. He also developed and implemented the institution’s Affordable Housing Program and directed an $18 million Federal Small Business Lending portfolio.

Keith Bowers has also served the Florida Housing Finance Corporation as Single Family Administrator and Planning Manager. He structured and managed Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Programs with an average annual portfolio in excess of $180 million. In addition, he coordinated training and marketing activities among a network of more than 60 lenders and builders throughout Florida, administered the HUD HOME Homeownership Program which provided over $8 million in direct loans to developers of affordable housing, managed down payment and purchase assistance programs with a $15 million annual budget, and directed HUD sponsored counseling and outreach programs implemented in major Florida cities.

Keith is actively engaged in a number of community-based organizations and currently serves on the Board of Governors for the Leon County Research Development Authority, Board of Commissioners for the Leon County-Tallahassee Enterprise Zone, Board of Directors of Elder Care Services and Citizens’ Advisory Council for the Frenchtown/Southside Community Revitalization Area.

Keith is married to Valerie, his wife of eight years and they have a seven-year old son, Wynton. Keith is an ardent jazz aficionado and collects vintage jazz recordings and memorabilia. He also enjoys cooking, travel and volunteering in the community.
Innovation Park of Tallahassee has been the hub of scientific research in North Florida for decades. The university-based research park is overseen by the Leon County Research and Development Authority (the Authority). Among the partnerships highly valued by the Authority are those with Florida State University, Florida A & M University, and Tallahassee Community College, as well as those with governmental and industrial sector representatives. Both the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and the Danfoss Turbocor sites are located in Innovation Park.

Ron Miller is the Executive Director of the Leon County Research & Development Authority which oversees the 208-acre Innovation Park in Tallahassee. The Authority owns and manages 5 of the 17 buildings in the Park. Ron is focused on helping higher education partners, FSU, FAMU and TCC, promote research and development activities, commercialize new technologies, foster entrepreneurship, and spur job creation through high tech company formation and attraction. The Authority is a stand-alone state special district governed by an 11-member Board with representatives appointed by the County, City, FSU, FAMU, and TCC.

A 2011 transplant from Indianapolis, Ron has a Bachelor’s degree in accounting, held a CPA license in Indiana for 24 years, and has extensive experience in private sector financial and operations management as a division vice president of a large food service company and as a chief financial officer in food service, manufacturing, and commercial building companies. In 2008 he received from Indiana University an MBA degree focused on entrepreneurship, and venture and technology management.

Ron serves on the Board of Junior Achievement Big Bend which is focused on workforce readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship education for K-12. He lives in Tallahassee with his wife, Darlene, a Maclay School 3rd grade teacher. They have two adult sons living in town including a doctoral candidate at FSU.
The only facility of its kind in the United States, the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory (MagLab) is the largest and highest-powered magnet laboratory in the world. Every year, nearly two thousand scientists from dozens of countries come to use the unique magnets with the support of highly experienced staff scientists and technicians. Thanks to funding from the National Science Foundation and the State of Florida, these researchers use the facilities for free, probing fundamental questions about materials, energy and life. Their findings result in more than 400 scientific publications a year in peer-reviewed journals such as Nature, Science and Physical Review Letters.

Lila Jaber
Regional Managing Shareholder, Gunster

In her third decade of regulatory policy and government practice, Lila Jaber leads Gunster’s Government Affairs practice, as well as serves as the firm’s regional managing shareholder. Notably, Lila is also the architect of the Florida’s Women in Energy Leadership Forum, a group focused on highlighting the workforce and economic development contributions of the electric and natural gas industries in the state.

Lila is dedicated to providing strategic and regulatory advice to clients on a number of business and economic development issues. Her experience ranges from utility specific matters in energy and water, to general business strategy development and implementation for companies doing business in Florida. Lila’s counsel includes C-level consulting to clients with priority for growth in Florida. Lila’s advocacy involves the Florida Attorney General’s Office, the Florida Legislature and the Office of the Governor. Fluent in English and Arabic, Lila is an experienced speaker and presenter, and has testified before the Florida Legislature, the Florida Cabinet, the United States Department of Treasury, and the United States Senate Committee on Commerce.

A former chair of the Florida Public Service Commission, Lila served two terms as both commissioner and chairman, overseeing the state’s implementation of economic regulatory policy and procedure for the energy, natural gas, water and telecommunications industries. Directly accountable for a 380 member staff and for regulatory decisions impacting a $17 billion investor owned utility industry, Lila represented the state on the State-Federal Universal Service Joint Board, FCC Advanced Services Task Force, and the NARUC committees on water, telecommunications and consumer affairs.

Lila is passionate about and personally committed to making Florida a great place to live and work. She is involved at the state and local leadership levels, helping to promote civic engagement and economic development. Lila’s civic commitments include her appointment to the City of Tallahassee’s inaugural Ethics Board, where she served as chair. Lila is also a founding member of the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, where she strives to promote growth and support for women and minority owned businesses in five counties in the Big Bend region. Additionally, Lila is a member (and former chair) of Leadership Florida, a 1,600 member statewide organization helping to build leaders for the public good.
Lila has earned a variety of honors and recognitions over the course of her career. Most recently, she was named one of Tallahassee Democrat’s “25 Women You Need to Know” in 2015, and received the commission of Kentucky Colonel by Kentucky’s Governor in 2016 for her noteworthy accomplishments and outstanding service.

Hughes is also the chair of the MagLab’s Diversity Committee, and serves on the Florida State University Diversity and Inclusion Council. She has also been named to the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG) and the American Physical Society Committee on the Status of Women in Physics.

Showcasing and creating content that educates and informs the community and is available through multiple platforms is critical to the mission of WFSU. Linking the content that WFSU produces as well as the vast resources of PBS and NPR to our community is part of the station’s strategic plan. WFSU was selected to participate in the PBS Ready To Learn project funded through the US Department of Education and has been part of the American Graduate: Let’s Make it Happen public media initiative since 2011. Kim serves on Board of Governors for Leadership Tallahassee, and a board member of the Tallahassee Community College Foundation. She also serves on the PBS KIDS Station Advisory Board. She is married to ornithologist Todd Engstrom and they have a son who attends Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Roxanne Hughes
Director of Education, Outreach and Diversity, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Roxanne Hughes, PhD, is the Director of Education, Outreach and Diversity at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. She oversees programming designed to excite and educate across all academic levels: K-12, technical, undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral.

Hughes began her career as a science teacher and went on to get her PhD in educational leadership and policy studies. Her research focuses on the role of identity on science and engineering careers, science teaching, mentoring in STEM, and informal STEM education. She is co-director of the SciGirls summer camp and maintains a rigorous research agenda designed to investigate how the lab’s educational programs and materials affect teachers and students.

Kim Kelling
Director of Content & Community Partnerships, WFSU Public Media

Kim Kelling is the Director of Content & Community Partnerships at WFSU Public Media. She oversees all content development for television, radio and online platforms as well as on the ground community engagement and education projects.
América's Competitiveness Exchange

Dr. Charmane V. Caldwell
Director of Diversity and Inclusion, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering (COE)

Dr. Charmane V. Caldwell is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering (COE). As Director, Charmane leads a comprehensive effort to develop and implement diversity and inclusion strategies and programs, with emphasis on undergraduate retention and student support programs. Additionally, Dr. Caldwell serves as a teaching professor for the First-Year Engineering Lab (FYEL), which is part of the pre-engineering program.

Charmane is an alumna of the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering receiving her BS, MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering where her research concentration consisted of utilizing Sampling-Based Model Predictive Control for motion planning of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and autonomous ground vehicles (UGVs). During her graduate education, she was a McKnight Doctoral Fellow and Office of Naval Research (ONR) Historically Black Engineering College/University (HBECU) Future Engineering Faculty Fellow.

Carlos Villa
K-12 Education Coordinator, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Carlos Villa is the K-12 Education Outreach Coordinator in the Center for Integrating Research and Learning at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, where he oversees Camp Tesla, among other programs.

He earned both his B.S. in Secondary Science Education (Earth/Space Science) and his M. Ed. In Teacher Education from Florida State University.

Jeff Whalen
Research Faculty and Entrepreneur in Residence, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Jeffrey is a Florida native with history in Fort Lauderdale and currently residing in Tallahassee as Research Faculty and Entrepreneur in Residence at the National High Magnetic Field Lab. He has a passion for innovation and commercialization of science, technology, engineering and math. Over the past 10 years, Jeffrey has launched several companies with new technologies ranging from proprietary crystal manufacturing to artificial intelligence algorithm platforms. He has executed federally funded research projects in the form of SBIR/STTR's, Materials Genome Initiatives and collaborative research agreements from National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense. Jeffrey is committed to enhancing the startup ecosystem in Florida and has a deep network of entrepreneurs & innovators.
university technology transfer offices, political influencers and private investors in the state.

His expertise is in science commercialization, STEM innovation, and technology transfer; STEM entrepreneurship education; applied magnetism and new magnet technologies; crystalline materials discovery, growth, and processing; hydrogen storage materials and fuel cell technology; x-ray diffraction system techniques and customization; novel process control systems development; and solid state physiochemical properties characterization.

Jeffrey has about 30 publications in peer-reviewed scholar journals, mostly relating to crystal growth, and several patents relating to algorithms, crystal growth, and applied magnetism technologies. His collaborative, cross-disciplinary research spans chemistry, materials science, physics, and engineering, and he has served as Principal Investigator of several federally-funded projects. Jeffrey is highly experienced with innovation, intellectual property, and founding of science-based startup companies, as well as the setup and management of new and/or customized laboratories.

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**Lawrence Tinker**
Entrepreneur in Residence,
Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research

Dr. Lawrence Tinker is Entrepreneur in Residence for the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research and is responsible for research partner institutions and projects across north Florida. He works with faculty and researchers within the universities and research institutions in his region to identify technologies that can be commercialized through startup companies. He has more than thirty years of experience working in both large and small organizations in R&D, product development, intellectual property development, licensing, and corporate management. Prior to joining the Institute, he was President at RBC Technologies, an independent technology development and licensing company, and led successful efforts to develop and license portable energy technologies. He served as President, Vice President of Advanced Technology, and Vice President of Engineering at AER Energy Resources, a technology development and licensing company, where he was responsible for R&D, product development and intellectual property development. Dr. Tinker also served as Manager of Technology at Gates Aerospace Batteries, Manager of Research at Ballard Research, Inc. and a Member of the Technical Staff at Hughes Aircraft Company. Dr. Tinker earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from The University of Texas at Austin and is the author of twenty-four publications and an inventor on seventeen patents.
David Teek
Export Control Coordinator, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

David Teek serves as the Export Control Coordinator in Florida A & M University’s Office of Technology Transfer, works to develop new and innovative research and technology commercialization partnerships and funding. As Export Control Coordinator, he works with researchers to ensure compliance with provisions relating to technology exchanges. Mr. Teek works in FAMU’s Technology Transfer Office to identify and pursue new research and technology commercialization partnerships and funding with industry and federal agencies. These efforts include the establishing the FAMU Innovation Center and the Research Entrepreneurship and Commercialization Hub (REACH) initiatives with funding support from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration.

David is a twenty year Tallahassee resident who grew up on Florida’s Space Coast. Previous work included the development and funding of commercial space and space research facilities and programs with the Spaceport Florida Authority, clean energy technology development demonstration and test programs, and university technology commercialization initiatives at Domi Station. State government experience includes service with the Florida House of Representatives and regional visioning at the former Department of Community Affairs.

Matt Johnson
Johnson Magrath & Partners

Matt Johnson is the Managing Partner at Johnson Magrath & Partners, LLC, a Georgia-based private investment fund. The fund invests in public and private equities. Mr. Johnson has been responsible for managing the daily operations of the fund since its inception and is active in raising capital as well as sourcing, vetting and monitoring all investments made by the fund. Mr. Johnson earned a B.A. in Economics from Clemson University.
Kristin Roberts
Public Affairs Director, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Kristin Roberts is the Public Affairs Director at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. With a background in marketing and applied economics, Roberts drives new audiences to science through rich partnerships, dynamic content and hands-on events. She facilitates an annual Open House event at the MagLab that has attracted more than 8,000 visitors a year and serves on the Executive Board for the Tallahassee Science Festival, a community event attended by 4,000 people. Roberts coordinates the MagLab’s quarterly Science Café speaker series and oversees the MagLab’s web and social media presence, reaching thousands of people across the lab’s Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Instagram accounts. She and her team have created unique video content as a way to reach new and diverse audiences including Science in a Sentence and See-thru Science and recently launched a new magazine called fields, which covers cool things that researchers discover about the world using high-field magnets.

Roberts has collaborated with a Disney Imagineer and the Florida State University Fine Arts Department to come up with interactive hands-on exhibits that would help explain complicated magnet science in an engaging way. She recently partnered with the Florida State University College of Motion Picture Arts to use virtual and augmented reality as a communications tool for high magnetic field research that debuted at the Smithsonian Museum in October 2017.

Before joining the MagLab, Kristin was the Deputy Communications Director for the Florida Department of Health. She crafted award-winning public health campaigns across the state. Roberts also worked in community relations at the Florida Commission on Human Relations, the state’s civil rights agency.

David Larbalestier
Chief Materials Scientist, Associate Lab Director, and Director of Applied Superconductivity Center, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

In addition to his role as chief materials scientist, David Larbalestier is director of the MagLab’s Applied Superconductivity Center (ASC) and Francis Eppes Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering.

Larbalestier has been active in superconductivity ever since his Ph.D., when his thesis work gained the Matthey Prize of Imperial College London. At the Superconducting Magnet Research Group of the Rutherford Laboratory, he worked for four years on the development of multifilamentary Nb3Sn conductors and magnets. This work culminated in...
the first filamentary Nb3Sn magnets, one outcome of which was the first filamentary Nb3Sn NMR magnet (470 MHz), for which he shared a 1978 IR-100 award with an Oxford Instrument Company team.

In 1976 Larbalestier joined the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he taught in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Department of Physics, and held both the L. V. Shubnikov Chair and the David Grainger Chair of Superconductivity. His group has had a large influence on the understanding and application of both low- and high-temperature superconductors, and made the definitive studies of the materials science and processing of the most widely used superconductor, niobium titanium.

Larbalestier has been active in promoting collaborations uniting industry, national laboratory and other university groups. His leadership in both the low-temperature and high-temperature superconductor communities has led to prizes from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Council for Chemical Research for his work and that of his collaborators on (Bi,Pb)2Sr2Ca2Cu3O10-x.

He has served on many review panels of the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Energy (DOE), was a member of the 1987 National Academy of Sciences Panel on High Temperature Superconductivity, and led the 1996 World Technology Evaluation Center Panel on Energy Applications of Superconductors sponsored by DOE and NSF.

In 2000 he was a visiting professor at the University of Geneva and a visiting fellow at Imperial College London. In 2007 he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Cryogenic Materials Conference, and in 2009-2010 was the Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Council on Superconductivity. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the National Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Physics (UK), the National Academy of Inventors, the IEEE, the Materials Research Society and the AAAS.

Larbalestier is presently a member of U.S. Department of Energy’s High Energy Physics Advisory Panel and the National Materials and Manufacturing Board of the National Research Council. His work has been supported by several arts of the DOE, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the National Science Foundation, ITER, CERN and numerous U.S. national laboratories. His 450 publications have received more than 14,000 citations.

In 1976 Cross received a B.S. degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and later a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania with Prof. Stanley J. Opella pursuing technological development for structural and dynamic characterizations of protein through solid state NMR spectroscopy. Cross spent 1983 at the University of Basel’s Biozentrum in Switzerland with Prof. Joachim Seelig. While Cross’s NATO fellowship was to pursue this lipid research with Seelig, he spent much of the year developing MRI probes for one of the first MRI instruments for human extremities and laboratory animals.

In 1984 at Florida State University’s Department of Chemistry, Cross pursued the use of solid state NMR of transmembrane peptides and proteins.
Having received a Presidential Young Investigator Award from NSF, he characterized the structure of gramicidin A in a liquid crystalline lipid environment, the first all-atom structure of a membrane peptide or protein in a lipid environment. Along the way he became an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow and in 1989. Cross was recruited by Prof. Jack Crow to write portions of the successful grant proposal to the National Science Foundation for moving the National MagLab from MIT to Tallahassee.

Cross is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the Biophysical Society as well as the International Society for Magnetic Resonance.

**Chris Hendrickson**

**Director, Ion Cyclotron Resonance (ICR) User Facility, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory**

Chris Hendrickson is the Director of the Ion Cyclotron Resonance User Facility at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory.

He was awarded the Florida State University Distinguished University Scholar Award in 2010 and 2011. He also served on the A-page Advisory Board, Analytical Chemistry, in 2003.

**Tom Painter**

**Magnet Science and Technology Senior Research Associate, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, and CEO, High Performance Magnetics**

Tom Painter is a senior research associate at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory and the CEO of High Performance Magnetics. Painter developed his research interests in superconducting magnets and cryogenic systems while getting is degrees from Pennsylvania State University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He completed his masters' thesis at the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute.

Painter was the project engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Plasma Fusion Center, where he worked on the engineering design, fabrication, installation and test of the United States Demonstration Poloidal Coil (US-DPC), a prototype heating coil for a
tokamak fusion reactor funded by the Department of Energy made with Nb3Sn superconducting wire and cable-in-conduit conductor (CICC).

He has also been involved in designing and constructing components of the world-record 45 Tesla Hybrid and 900 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) magnet systems housed at the National MagLab.

His company, High Performance Magnetics, provided superconducting cable as part of the US contribution to ITER, an International Fusion Experiment.

Lance Cooley
Applied Superconductivity Center, National High Magnetic Field Laboratory

Lance Cooley is a professor at the MagLab's Applied Superconductivity Center (ASC) and the FSU/FAMU College of Engineering.

Cooley began working in superconducting materials as a graduate student at University of Wisconsin under the direction of David Larbalestier, who is currently the director of the ASC. He received his doctoral degree from UW in 1993 and has held positions at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the University of Wisconsin and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Cooley joined Fermilab in 2007 and served as head of the Superconducting Materials Department between 2011 and 2014. During that time, he coordinated multiuniversity research to understand the effects of metalworking and chemical polishing on the superconducting properties of high-purity niobium used in linear accelerators.

He also worked on superconductors for advanced high-field magnets, which led to his current role in the High-Luminosity Upgrade of the Large Hadron Collider, the world's most powerful particle accelerator, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research — more commonly known as CERN — in Switzerland and France.

Cooley is interested in expanding research opportunities in areas where scientists have not commonly used superconducting magnets or materials. For example, how superconducting coils could be used at lower fields and warmer temperatures to power offshore wind turbines and how to enable the use of high-power electron beams for industry by making the accelerator part compact and superconducting.
Danfoss Turbocor Compressors

Danfoss is the leading manufacturer of oil-less compressors for commercial HVACs using magnetic bearing technology developed at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Danfoss is transforming the commercial HVAC market with innovative technology that redefines lifetime operating costs and sustainable energy efficiency for mid-range chiller and rooftop applications. The success of Danfoss is easily identified in public/private partnerships and the technology commercialization of magnetics and advanced manufacturing.

David Ramsay
Innovation Park Chair

Having worked for SunTrust for more than 46 years, David Ramsay retired in October, 2007 as the Chairman, President and CEO of SunTrust Bank, Northwest Florida, a position he held for twelve years. Before transferring to Florida in 1995, he served as Chairman, President and CEO of SunTrust Banks in northeast and middle Tennessee, and as Executive Vice President of SunTrust Bank in Nashville.

In 1995, he was assigned to Tallahassee as that bank’s President and CEO, with the title of Chairman being added a year later. Subsequent acquisitions in Marianna and Chattahoochee expanded the bank beyond Leon County, and in 1999, SunTrust banks in Pensacola, Panama City, Fort Walton and Destin were added to his responsibilities resulting in the creation of SunTrust Bank, Northwest Florida. At yearend 2006, the bank operated 31 branches in eight counties and held deposits in excess of $1.5 billion.

Dave is active in community and statewide organizations. He has served as Chairman of the local Economic Development Council and as both the Chairman of the Board and the Campaign Chair for the United Way of the Big Bend. His campaign exceeded $5,000,000 in annual pledges.

He was appointed by Governor Bush, and confirmed by the Florida Senate, to serve on the Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, also known as Volunteer Florida. He subsequently chaired that Commission. Secretary of State Sue Cobb appointed him to the board of the Friends of Mission San Luis, and Secretaries Kurt Browning and Dawn Roberts reappointed him for additional terms. He was appointed by these Secretaries to serve as the organization’s Chairman for five consecutive one-year terms.

Currently he serves as an Advisory Board member of both Florida State University’s College of Medicine Regional Board in Tallahassee and the Florida Highway Patrol. He also serves on the boards of the Leon County Research and Development Authority, where he currently is the Authority’s Chair, and Hancock Bank - Tallahassee. He previously served for two terms as Vice President of Florida’s Great Northwest, a 16-county regional economic development council for northwest Florida, and as a Commissioner of the City of Tallahassee’s Urban Design Commission. He is formerly a member of the board of the Capital Regional Medical Center. Dave serves as unofficial liaison for the USS Florida nuclear submarine and for years has hosted the Captain and crew for football weekends.
in Tallahassee. He established a community initiative to relocate and mount the historic bronze bell from the USS Tallahassee, a retired Navy ship that was launched in 1901, to the front courtyard of City Hall.

Through the years, he has served on numerous boards and committees of the Tennessee, Florida and American Bankers Associations. In 1986 – ‘87, he was the National President of the American Institute of Banking. At the ABA, he served as a member of both the Education Policy and Development Council and on the Government Relations Council.

He was awarded the President’s Call to Service Award in 2009, in recognition of his extensive lifetime service in volunteerism and civic participation. Later that same year, the Tallahassee Democrat chose him as Tallahassee’s Volunteer of the Year for the Arts.

Dave is a graduate of Red Bank High School and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga having received a BS degree in Business Administration with emphasis in accounting. He is a graduate of the School of Banking of the South at LSU, the American Bankers Association’s National Commercial Lending Graduate School at the University of Oklahoma, and the Robert Morris Associates’ Senior Loan Management Program at Indiana University.

After completing Officer’s Candidate School (OCS), he was commissioned as an infantry officer. In 1969, Dave was awarded the Army Commendation Medal in Stuttgart, Germany. While in the service, he held a NATO Top Secret security clearance.

He earned a private pilot's license and has traveled extensively throughout the United States, Europe and the Caribbean. He is married to the former Nancy Jo Bales of Chattanooga and they have two sons and two grandchildren.
Florida Center of Advanced Aero-Propulsion

The Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion (FCAAP) was formed to meet the needs of a rapidly evolving and highly competitive aerospace industry. FCAAP’s objectives are to help train and sustain the much needed, highly skilled workforce; to design and develop new technologies and products required to help sustain the aerospace industry; and to transition the technology to applications and products through partnerships with aerospace industry, government, and other stakeholders. FCAAP was launched with nearly $15 million in seed funding by the State of Florida. These funds are being used to maximize the use of, and add to, FCAAP’s resources and will create a state and nationwide technology and resource team in the highly competitive and innovation-driven aerospace market. FCAAP has leveraged its seed funds and the extensive existing resources (nearly $70 million) of its partners both in terms of infrastructure and a team of highly experienced, internationally recognized scientists, researchers, and engineers. FCAAP’s interdisciplinary team covers a broad range of areas related to aeronautics, aerospace, propulsion, and space sciences. FCAAP is a technical incubator and is facilitating the rapid transfer of knowledge and technologies to applications and products through partnerships with aerospace industry, government, and other stakeholders.

Farrukh Alvi
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs, FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

Farrukh Alvi is the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. Farrukh Alvi earned his BS in Nuclear Engineering from UC Berkely and PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. He holds the Don Fuqua Eminent Scholar Chair and is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the Florida A&M University - Florida State University College of Engineering where he also serves as the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. He is the Founding Director of the Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion (FCAAP), a multi-university, state-wide research, technology and education center he helped establish in 2008. He is the Co-Lead of the FAA Center of Excellence in Commercial Space Transportation (FAA COE CST), a consortium of nine universities established in 2010 by the FAA to address the broad range of issues in the emerging commercial space transportation sector.

Recently his research has focused on developing and refining active flow and noise control technologies to reduce noise from and increase the efficiency of high speed aircraft, automobiles and turbomachinery (compressors, turbines) using advanced actuators, especially micro-fluidic actuators. He holds a number of patents in this area. The development and use of advanced diagnostics, especially non-intrusive optical techniques for fluid flows is also an active area of research. Over the last decade he has attracted well over $20 million in external funding for research, development and STEM education. His research has been funded by government agencies, such as the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), NASA, National Science Foundation (NSF), Office of Naval Research (ONR), DARPA, Army Research Office (ARO) and industry, such as Boeing, Northrup Grumman, Danfoss Turbocor, among others. To date, he has mentored over 50 PhD and MS
students, post-doctoral researchers and scientists and has published nearly 200 technical papers, articles and abstracts in his areas of research. He is an Associate Fellow of AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) and a Fellow of the ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers).

**Dr. Rajan Kumar**

M.S. and Ph. D. degrees

Department of Aerospace Engineering at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

Dr. Rajan Kumar received his M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India. He is currently an Assistant Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. He also serves as Technical Program Coordinator for the Florida Center for Advanced Aero-propulsion. His current research interests include noise control in high-speed jets, separated flows, reattaching flows, high angle of attack aerodynamics and intake aerodynamics. He has conducted research in a wide range of topics in the experimental aerodynamics and fluid mechanics. This includes: characterization and control of supersonic impinging jets, side force control on slender cones at high incidence, characterization and control of reattaching flows, and force and moment measurements on a variety of aircraft and launch vehicle scaled models. He has research experience of nearly 13+ years at National Aerospace Laboratories and served at various scientific positions. He is the recipient of Outstanding performance award (1997) for "Notable and innovative contributions to model instrumentation and wind tunnel testing of launch vehicle and aircraft models at the 1.2m trisonic wind tunnel" and Young Scientist Award (2002) for "Outstanding contributions to Aerodynamic research and High Speed Wind Tunnel Testing. He is a member of AIAA and Aeronautical Society of India.

**Emmanuel G. Collins**

Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Center for Intelligent Systems

Emmanuel G. Collins, Jr. is John H. Seely Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Center for Intelligent Systems, Control and Robotics (CISCOR) at the Florida A&M University and Florida State University College of Engineering. He received his Ph.D. in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Purdue University in 1987 and also holds the I.B.S. degree from Morehouse College and the B.M.E. degree from Georgia Institute of Technology. He spent 7 years in research and development at the Harris Corporation prior to joining the Department of Mechanical Engineering as an Associate Professor in August 1994. Dr. Collins teaches courses in control, robotics and dynamics. His current research interests are in control and guidance of autonomous vehicles and electric powered wheelchairs in extreme environments and situations, coordination of teams of heterogeneous agents (including human-robot teams), flow control, and applications of modern control approaches to energy management.
Cascades Park

Cascades Park is the newest, award winning social center of Tallahassee’s community, enhancing quality of life by offering one venue that brings together arts, entertainment, education, history, and wellness. Located in the heart of downtown, Cascades Park offers a variety of outdoor and recreational amenities, including a state-of-the-art amphitheater, interactive water fountain, children’s play area, Smokey Hollow Commemoration and miles of multi-use trails. Constructed by Blueprint 2000 in partnership with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County, Cascades Park is a stormwater facility that doubles as a unique urban park. Designed to flood, the park will offer relief to nearby areas during major storm events. This park was built by the citizens of Tallahassee and Leon County through the use of a one-cent local option sales tax.

Steve Evans
IBM (retired)

Mr. Steven L. Evans, also known as Steve, serves as Secretary at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Inc. Mr. Evans has extensive executive experience in the Government, Education, Pharmaceutical and Health industry across North America. He served as Vice President of North America at IBM since 1994. He has been directly involved in four successful start-up companies in leadership, strategic planning, change management and sales execution.

Mr. Evans retired from a 30+ year career with IBM in 2003. He served as IBM’s Senior State Executive for the State of Florida for 10 years. He served as Chairman Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. He has been a Director of Prime Meridian Holding Company since 2010. He serves as a Director at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, Inc., FSU Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, Applied Fiber Holdings, Inc. and Community Foundation of North Florida.

Ben Pingree
Director, Department of Planning, Land Use, and Community Enhancement

Ben was born in Tallahassee and was fortunate to be raised in both Tallahassee and in Miami.

Ben began his studies at University of Queensland (Australia) where he played Baseball and he received his Bachelor’s Degree from Boston University. He earned Master’s in Public Administration from Florida State University.

He is a dedicated public servant, serving local and state governments across Florida for the past 20 years, and the former County Administrator of Wakulla County. He also served as President and CEO of the Zoo Miami Foundation.

Ben is a member of Leadership Florida, Class 29 and is the President-Elect of the Florida State Parks Association.
He is married and has three wonderful children.

Ben has a passion to grow business and maximize the quality of life in Florida's Capital Community and serves with a talented and dedicated team of true professionals and public servants who work hard every day to make that happen.

Charles Hargraves
Director, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Charles Hargraves, a professional engineer, serves as the Director of the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, a joint City of Tallahassee-Leon County agency, which plans, designs and builds public infrastructure improvements such as roadways, multiuse trails, stormwater management facilities, and parks and recreation spaces. He brings over 20 years of engineering and management experience to multi-million dollar agency.

Linda Figg
President / CEO
FIGG Bridge Group

Linda Figg is President/CEO and Director of Bridge Art for the FIGG Bridge Group (FIGG), an international family of companies that exclusively specializes in bridges. Linda has over 36 years of experience in leadership, management, financing, and aesthetic design of landmark bridges from concept through construction. In 2002, Linda became President and owner of FIGG, taking over the reins from her father, Gene Figg, who founded the firm in 1978. She holds a Civil Engineering degree from Auburn University (BSCE, ’81).

With construction values totaling over $14 billion, FIGG has bridges in 42 states and 6 countries. Many of these bridges have set new industry standards in design, technology, materials, efficiency, and ease of construction. FIGG bridge designs have been heralded on the covers of more than 300 books and publications, most notably on 15 covers of the prestigious Engineering News-Record. FIGG bridges have received 376 awards for their owners, recognizing economy, innovation, sustainability, and aesthetics, including three Presidential Awards through the National Endowment for the Arts: the Sunshine Skyway Bridge crossing Tampa Bay, Florida, the Blue Ridge Parkway Viaduct around Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina and Natchez Trace Parkway Arches, Tennessee. This national honor has been given to only five bridges. Notable FIGG Bridges also include the New I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota to replace the bridge that collapsed across the Mississippi River in 2007 and the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and Observatory in Maine, featuring the tallest public observatory on a bridge in the world at 420 feet. FIGG Bridges have been featured on the front page of USA Today, and in seven documentaries on The History Channel series Modern Marvels, PBS, and National Geographic. In 2007, FIGG received the Pro Patria Award in Florida given by the US Department of Defense for the Company’s outstanding service in support of FIGG Team Members in the Army and Navy reserve.

Linda was named as one of Engineering News Record’s Top 22 Newsmakers in 1998 and Concrete Construction magazine named Linda as one of the 13 most influential people in the concrete industry in 2007. In 2010, Linda was named to the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Academy of Construction (NAC), which noted her “vision behind new technologies in bridges that are important to the long-term viability of our nation’s infrastructure.”

In 2011, Linda served as the first female Chair of the Construction Industry Round Table (CIRT), an
advocacy group comprised of one hundred CEOs of America’s leading engineering, architectural, and construction companies”. In 2014, American Road & Transportation Builders Association awarded Linda the Ethel S. Birchland Lifetime Achievement Award. Linda served as President of the American Segmental Bridge Institute from 2012-2014. Recently in 2017, Linda received The Auburn Distinguished Engineer Award from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Auburn University.

Dedicated to expanding public dialogue about the nation’s infrastructure, she pioneered the FIGG Bridge Design Charette™, a unique series of interactive community listening, learning, and aesthetics development sessions, and has facilitated more than 300 public workshops for the creation of world-class bridges.

Linda’s passion for creating artistic, environment friendly, economical and functional bridges has led her to focus on ways that landmark bridges can improve the quality of life in communities across America.

Autumn Calder
Planning Manager, Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency

Autumn Calder is the Planning Manager at the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency, the joint City-County Agency responsible for building the projects funded by the local penny sales tax. As the Planning Manager, she transforms the project’s vision into an implementable plan. Taking the lead on projects which involve multiple stakeholders and have big community impacts, Ms. Calder draws from her experience in real estate development, public involvement and project management to advance developments that enhance Tallahassee and Leon County in ways that cultivate hometown pride and garner recognition on a national level. A Tallahassee native, Ms. Calder earned her master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University.
Ms. Emmanuel serves as Public Information Officer for the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency where she works to convey and collect accurate information to and from the public about the Blueprint projects as well as the Office of Economic Vitality programs and activities. Additionally, she develops and implements marketing and communication plans, media relations efforts, printed publications, the internet presence, and advertising for the Agency.

The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency is designed to preserve, protect, and enhance the community’s quality of life through the implementation of holistic and coordinated planning, transportation, water quality, environmental, and green space projects consistent with holistic infrastructure planning processes.
Since its inception in 1892, the Marching 100 is a proud tradition at Florida A&M University and has been credited for not less than 30 innovative techniques which have become standard operating procedures for many high school and collegiate marching band programs throughout the nation. Penaclt for precision demonstrated in every aspect of its performance is a key to the success of the “100.”

Dr. Shelby R. Chipman is Associate Professor and Director of Marching and Pep Bands at Florida A&M University. His responsibilities in the Department of Music include teaching Instrumental Music, Conducting, and coordinating Recitals and Music Interns. Additionally, he assists with administration of the Marching, Symphonic, and Pep bands.

He is a native of Miami, Florida where he graduated from Miami Northwestern Senior High. He received Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science and Music Education from Florida A&M University, where he was conducting student of Dr. William P. Foster and Dr. Julian E. White. Professor Chipman completed his Masters Degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois, where he studied conducting with Prof. James Keene and received his Ph.D. degree from The Florida State University School of Music in Music Education, where studied with Dr. Bentley Shellahamer.

Prior to his appointment at Florida A&M University, he taught band in the Miami-Dade County Public School system for ten years. His band program at Miami Central developed into one of the finest band programs in the country. As much as a teacher as he was a musician, Dr. Chipman was named Teacher of the Year during the 1993-94 school year. Under his leadership the Rocket Marching band performed in the 1993, 1995, and 1997 King Orange Jamboree Parades, 1993 Heritage Festival (New Orleans, LA), 1990-96 Florida A&M University Homecoming Festivals (Tallahassee, FL), 1992-97 MLK Parades & Festival (St. Petersburg, FL), 1997 Macy’s Day Parade (New York City), and numerous other marching events. The Symphonic band performed at the prestigious Bands of America National Concert Festival in Indianapolis, IN.

Dr. Chipman is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi Band Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Music Educators National Conference (MENC), Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), College Band Directors National Conference (CBDNA), FMEA Black Caucus, and Bethel AME Church. He has coordinated numerous band festivals and had the pleasure of working with James Croft, Timothy Reynish, James Suddith, Jim Sparks, Gary Green, Anthony Maiello, and Eugene Corporon, who represent some of the finest conductors in the
world. In addition to working with these outstanding conducting, Dr. Chipman has presented music education and conducting clinics on several public school and college campuses, as well as given lectures at the FMEA conference and Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL. He is an active adjudicator and clinician throughout the Southeastern United States and currently serves as Conductor of the Tallahassee Big Bend Community Orchestra. Dr. Chipman is married to Detrick LaShawn, and together they have one son, Israel Armenian Chipman.

As an educator, Dr. Chipman believes that all students can learn. He believes there are obstacles that create barriers, but through faith, guidance, and love anything can be accomplished. As educators, it is our responsibility to encourage students to maintain their focus. There is good in all and we are challenged to bring out the best in students.

Florida’s Historic Capitol

Since 1845, the Historic Capitol has symbolized Florida state government. Restored to its 1902 appearance, the Historic Capitol stands as an icon at the center of Florida’s Capitol complex; the modern-day nerve center of Sunshine State government. Under the stained-glass dome, political history and tradition come alive in the exhibits.

Through photographs, recordings, and audiovisual displays, visitors experience the people and events that have shaped today’s Florida. Restored areas include the 1902 Governor’s office and chambers of the House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court. Together with exhibit panels, photographs, and interactive multimedia, the museum offers a journey through the colorful history of representative government in Florida. More than 250 artifacts in 21 rooms invite visitors to trace the evolution of Florida government from territorial days to the present.
Railroad Square Art Park

Railroad Square Art Park is Tallahassee-Leon County’s top destination for creatives, featuring dozens of small businesses, including galleries, curio shops, and craft beverage manufacturers. The flagship attraction, Proof Brewing Company, has garnered national attention with its creative brews and outdoor beer garden, designed for family enjoyment year-round.

Cristina Paredes
Deputy Director, Office of Economic Vitality

Cristina Paredes has more than 12 years of local government experience, with the past six years focused specifically on growing the economy in Tallahassee-Leon County. As Deputy Director for Engagement and Operations in the Office of Economic Vitality, Cristina utilizes a strong management and operational background to support and advance the office. Additionally, she oversees the implementation of the community’s first ever long-range economic development strategic plan and the development of partnerships across the private, public, and educational sectors to convey Tallahassee-Leon County’s economic vitality to businesses. Cristina earned both her Bachelor degree and Master of Public Administration from Florida State University. She is committed to building strong alliances and networks across all sectors of the community while working continuously to leverage ideas, innovations and intellectual capital in coordination with economic development partners.

Lindsay Volpe
Manager, Office of Economic Vitality

Lindsay Volpe is a fierce advocate for strategic community growth. She brings more than 10 years of economic development and external affairs experience to help implement Tallahassee-Leon County’s first-ever long-term strategic plan for economic development. Drawing from her strong background in research and communications, Lindsay develops and manages initiatives designed to provide economic opportunity for all.

Lindsay earned her Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Palm Beach Atlantic University and her Master’s in Public Administration from Florida Gulf Coast University. She is a member of the Board of Directors for the Junior League of Tallahassee.
THE 8TH ACE PARTICIPANTS
Guillermo Acosta

Undersecretary of Federal and Sectorial Articulation,
National Ministry of Production

guacosta@produccion.gob.ar
@Produccion_Arg @GcAcosta

Guillermo Acosta is the Undersecretary of Federal and Sectorial Articulation at the National Ministry of Production of Argentina. Previously, he was Minister of Industry, Trade, Mining and Science for the Province of Córdoba, Argentina, and the Director of the Institute for Economic Investigations at the Córdoba Stock Exchange. Mr. Acosta serves as faculty professor at the Catholic University of Córdoba and at the National University of Córdoba. He has an academic background in economics.

Tomas Roldán

Regional Executive
National Institute of Industrial Technology
troldan@inti.gob.ar

Tomás Roldán is a Regional Executive at Argentina's National Institute of Industrial Technology present in every province of the country to develop productive technology and transfer knowledge to industrial companies. He works to match Government Development policies in strategic fields and regions, with local resources and opportunities. Focusing on productivity, competitiveness and financing investment, the National Institute serves as the engine to boost big, medium and small enterprises.

Tomás has a degree in Industrial Engineering from Universidad de Buenos Aires and is now working in the public sector after working at an automotive group and small companies.
Romina Gayá

Director of Monitoring of Technological and Productive Services,
Ministry of Production
rominagaya@gmail.com
@romina_gaya - @PRODUCCION_ARG

Romina Gayá is the Director of the Knowledge Economy Observatory of the Ministry of Production of Argentina. Ms. Gayá has over fourteen years of experience as a researcher, professor, and consultant for international organizations and research centers from the governments and the private sector. She has specialized her career in international trade, technology, innovation, and knowledge-based services. She is an economist and holds a Master’s degree in International Economic Relations.

Donatela Orsi

Main Coordinator of the Cities for Entrepreneurs Programme
Ministry of Production
donatelaorsi@gmail.com
@doutorsi - @produccion_arg

Donatela Orsi is the Coordinator of the Cities for Entrepreneurs program in the Ministry of Production of Argentina. In this role, Ms. Orsi oversees the implementation of local public policies that promote entrepreneurship in over 50 cities across Argentina. She has also developed, an course on “Public Policies for Entrepreneurial Development” for policymakers at different levels of government. Previously Ms. Orsi was the Project Leader in the General Direction of Entrepreneurs in the City Government of Buenos Aires. Ms. Orsi has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations (UNICEN) and is currently pursuing her Master's in Public Policy (UNSAM).
Shawn Martin Tudor

Chief Executive Officer Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
shawn.tudor@badmc.org

Shawn Tudor is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (BADMC). In this role, Mr. Tudor leads a Corporation of over two hundred staff across five divisions, including Food Innovation, Agricultural Services and the State Trading Operation. Mr. Tudor is tasked with the breadth of agricultural development in the country to reverse the massive dependence on imports by increasing primary production, value added products, and innovation in food. Previously, Mr. Tudor was a Fund Manager and a Foreign Exchange trader in London. Mr. Tudor has post graduate degree in Finance and a Bachelor’s in IT.

Lejia Melanie Gideon

General Manager of the Enterprise and Innovation Division
Belize Trade & Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE)

In her current role, she is responsible for developing policy recommendations to national government for the enhancement of Belize’s business climate, along with supporting the core organizational functions for investment, trade promotion, and export development, as well as small enterprise and entrepreneurial development. Ms. Gideon earned a Master of Science in International Development: Industry, Trade, and Development from the University of Manchester with a concentration on Small Enterprise Development in the Small States. She obtained a BA in International Relations with concentrations in Caribbean Development and Asian Studies.
Juan Camilo Quintero
Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship
National Association of Industry - ANDI
Jquintero@andi.com.co

Juan Camilo Quintero is the National Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship of the National Association of Industry in Colombia (ANDI). ANDI brings together 1,200 companies that represent 50% of the national GDP. Previously, Mr. Quintero was the Director of Ruta N, and of an innovation and business center based in Medellin, Colombia. He has also been the Director of Tecnova, a technology transfer office of 10 Universities in Medellin, and he served as Productivity and Competitiveness Secretary in the Antioquia Region of Colombia.

Shahera Diane McKoy
Manager of the Business Facilitation Unit, Belize Trade and Investment Development Service
shahera@belizeinvest.org.bz

Shahera D. McKoy manages the Business Facilitation Unit at EXPORTBelize, which is the agency in the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) responsible for the internationalization of Belizean SMEs. In this role, Ms. McKoy develops work-plans and supports policies for export development and export promotion to improve the competitiveness of SMEs and enhance their ability to export and take advantage of opportunities in the global marketplace. Ms. Mckoy has a Master’s of Science in Agribusiness and Applied Economics and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

Juan Camilo Quintero
Ana María Muñoz

Founder and Director, 1/4Tech Lab
ana@uncuartotech.com
@_anamunoz

Ana María Muñoz is the Founder and Director of 1/4Tech, an Education Technology Innovation Lab based in Bogotá, Colombia. In this role, Ms. Muñoz aims to change and improve the way people learn in Latin America through Design Thinking, technology, and innovation, and by applying learning-by-doing and project-based methodologies. Ms. Muñoz has designed experiences for the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications, as well as for NGOs such as Trust of The Americas and United Way. She started the Makers Colombia Community in 2014, a community of designers, engineers, artists and creators of all disciplines that learn, make and share. Ms Muñoz co-founded 20Mission, a co-living and co-working space for tech entrepreneurs in San Francisco. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Marketing and her Master’s Degree in Digital Marketing from Hult International Business School (San Francisco).

Fernando Sierra

General Partner of Invictum Capital
President Kairos of Society Latin America
fernando@invx.co
fernando.sierra@kairossociety.org
@fsierra57

Fernando Sierra is the Co-Founder & General Partner of Invictum Capital, a venture capital firm focused on exponential organizations in Colombia and Latin America. Invictum was structured within ANDI del Futuro, one of the biggest and most influential networks of entrepreneurs in Colombia. Previously, Mr. Sierra founded INVX, another private investment vehicle. Mr. Sierra is also President for Latin America of Kairos Society, a global community (50+ countries) of high profile young leaders focused on rethinking traditional industries through entrepreneurship. In 2015, Mr. Sierra attended the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly as one of the young representatives from Colombia. Mr. Sierra has a B.S in Economics from the University of the Andes and is a Fellow of the Venture Capital Unlocked program from Stanford University & 500 Startups.
Liliana Pinilla

Manager
Office of Transfer of Results of Strategic Research
Chamber of Commerce of Bucaramanga
lilianapinillat@gmail.com

Liliana Pinilla Torres is the Manager of the Office of Transfer of Results of Strategic Research at the Chamber of Commerce of Bucaramanga. In this role, Ms. Pinilla leads projects in technology packaging and market evaluations and advises on innovative technological developments of companies and universities in eastern Colombia. Previously, Ms. Pinilla worked for ECOPETROL, a leading oil company in Colombia; in technology marketing; and in the consultancy firm Inventta Colombia. Ms. Pinilla is a chemical engineer and holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Management, with an emphasis on technological management.

Alejandro López

President
Medellin Startup City
alejandro@medellinstartupcity.com
@alejolrpo @medellinstartup

Alejandro López is an entrepreneur and founder of TurboBOY, a logistics company, as well as Medellin Startup City, a program for entrepreneurial training sponsored by the City of Medellin. Additionally, Mr. López is President of the Board of Directors of ANDI de Futuro, which is the entrepreneurial chapter of the most important Industrial Association of Colombia. Mr. López is a former corporate executive with more than 11 years of experience in the energy mining sector. In these roles, Mr. Lopez fully managed the growth of companies, such as Legrand and Boart Longyear. Mr. López is an Electronic Engineer at the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana in Colombia and holds an MBA from Tec de Monterrey in Mexico.
Soraya Alejandra Borja
Project Specialist for Strategic Projects of the Productive and Tax Advisory Council
Ministry of Industry and Competitiveness
saborjat@hotmail.com

Soraya Borja is Strategic Project Advisor at the Ministry of Industry and Competitiveness in Ecuador. In this role, Ms. Borja assists the Productive and Tax Advisory Council and works on innovation policies. Previously, Ms. Borja worked at the Coordination Ministry of Production in Ecuador as a Specialist in Public Policies and supported analysis, coordination and evaluation of private and public policies. Additionally, Ms. Borja has worked as a consultant on development projects at the United Nations, Interamerican Development Bank and the Andean Community. Ms. Borja is an Ecuadorian Economist and received a Master’s Degree in Social and Political Latin American Studies in Chile.

Lissette Cristalina Canales
Business Faculty Dean, Technological University of El Salvador
lissette.canales@utec.edu.sv
@LissetteCristal

Lissette Canales is a Business Faculty Dean at the Technological University in El Salvador. She has eight years of experience in this position and is also in charge of the Development Program of Entrepreneurial Leadership. As a dean, Ms. Canales also worked for the establishment of a Center for Development of Micro and Small Enterprises, in which the University established a partnership with CONAMYPE for the installation of a Small Business Development Center (called CDMYPE in El Salvador). Ms. Canales is the former Executive Director of the National Business Plan Competition “Emprendedores del Futuro” held in partnership with the US Embassy in El Salvador in 2013. Ms. Canales is a professor of postgraduate students, holds a Master’s in Business Administration, and is a PhD Candidate in Family Business at the Universidad de Alicante.
Juan Carlos Paiz

Member of the Board of the Private Competitiveness Council
President of Panifresh Corporation
juancarlos@panifresh.com.gt
@Juancarlospaiz

Juan Carlos Paiz is the President of Pani-Fresh, an industrial bakery with 450 employees that exports to 20 Latin American Countries. Pani-Fresh won the Award for Best Exporter, as well as for Best Manufacturing Business in Guatemala. He is also a Member of the Board of the Private Competitiveness Council in Guatemala. Previously, Mr. Paiz served as the former Guatemalan ad-honorem Presidential Commissioner for Competitiveness and Investment. In this role, he developed a comprehensive development strategy for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras jointly with the US Government. He has also served as the Former President of the Guatemalan Exports Association, the Central American Federation of Exporters, and the Coordinating Committee of Guatemalan Chambers. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M, an MBA from INCAE Business School and a Master’s Degree in Productivity from the University of Francisco Marroquin.

Lucía María del Rosario Barreda

Director General of the Small Business Development Center (PROMIPYME) and the Institution of Tourism Development (PRODETUR)
dir@prodetur.com

Lucia Maria del Rosario Barreda is the Director of Guatemala’s Institution of Tourism Development (PRODETUR) and the Small Business Development Center (PROMIPYME). Both Centers offer training, technical assistance, and one-on-one consulting to entrepreneurs and businesses. In these roles, Dr. Barreda works with the private sector, government, and academia. Dr. Barreda is also the Director for Guatemala at Green Project Management in Michigan. She has worked for 28 years formulating strategies and action plans for economic and business development in Latin America, Central America, and Guatemala at the national, regional and local level. She is a professor of economics, tourism, and marketing in Guatemalan and South American universities. Dr. Barreda has a PhD in Political Science and Sociology; a Master’s in Marketing; and a Master’s in Project Management.
Lorena Quiñones
International Project Relations Specialist
Chamber of Industry of Guatemala
lquinones@industriaguate.com

Lorena Quiñones is currently the International Project Relations Specialist in Guatemala's Chamber of Industry, one of the main business organizations in the country, being the main liaison for the Latin American Industrial Association (AILA) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Working closely with the industry sector of the region, she has been responsible of coordinating AILA's representativeness among international organizations and its members. Besides, she also worked in the reactivation of the ICC national committee and the creation of the working commissions, having put together the strategy and working plans for the past years. She prepared and carried out several projects, mainly in the area of anticorruption and in the advocacy field for many subjects of interest for the private sector of Latin America.

Lorena has a M.S in International Management, a M.S in International Tourism Economics and Management both of the Toulouse School of Management (TSM) and a B.S in Economics and Management of the TSM and University of Toulouse.

Fabiola Antoine
Technical Assistant for Innovation and Incubator Project
fabiolantoine@gmail.com
@Fabiantoine

Fabiola Antoine is Technical Assistant for Innovation and Incubator Project at the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) of Haiti, member of a unit responsible for the implementation of innovation projects. In this role, Mrs. Antoine is working particularly as an associate-partnership for the Center of Incubator for Tech Innovation of Haiti that will be implemented by November 2017, and work on the formulation of the National Innovation Policy of Haiti. Previously, Mrs. Antoine was a member of the Cabinet of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (2015-2016) and serves at the International Cooperation Department at the MEF monitoring international cooperation projects (2016-2017).

Mrs. Antoine has a Post-graduate Degree in Applied Economic- Option Statistics.
Rock André
Chief Executive Officer and Director
Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Haiti
mrockandre@gmail.com
@cedelhaiti @mrockandre

Rock André is the CEO and Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Leadership in Haiti (CEDEL HAITI), a social venture that supports small business development in Haiti. In this role, Mr. André organizes an Annual Entrepreneurship Forum to teach entrepreneurship to high school kids, women entrepreneurs and people with disabilities. Previously, Mr. André worked as a business consultant in the United States, South Africa and Haiti. He was awarded in 2014 the “Young Innovator of the Year” recognition by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Marlon Brevé
President UNITEC University in Honduras

Dr. Marlon Brevé is Academic President of UNITEC.. Dr. Brevé oversees the operation of four Schools (Engineering and Architecture, Business and Social Sciences, Health Sciences, and Graduate Studies) which all together offer 22 undergraduate and 13 graduate programs in three campuses (Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula and La Ceiba), with a total population of more than 25,000 students and 800 faculty members. One main pillar of UNITEC’s educational model is Entrepreneurship, and which has become a priority in the last few years, as all undergraduate programs now include two classes on Entrepreneurship, student participation in campus-wide and national entrepreneurship fairs and contests, a student–managed entrepreneurship club (HUB UNITEC), and, in the near future, the creation of a technology–based business incubator. About Dr. Brevé’s background, he has a B.S. in Civil Engineering, a M.S. in Agricultural Engineering, and a Ph.D. in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Brevé has held the positions of Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at EARTH University in Costa Rica (1993–2006), Minister of Education of Honduras (2007–2009) and Dean of the Graduate School and Academic Vice President of UNITEC (2010–present).
Maria Teresa Morazán
Co-founder and Director, Impact Hub Tegucigalpa
mariateresa.morazan@impacthub.net

Maria Teresa Morazán is the Co-Founder of Impact Hub Tegucigalpa, an entrepreneurship and business center to be launched in 2018 as part of the Impact Hub global network, which is in 80+ cities and has 10,000+ members. In this role, Ms. Morazán is organizing a regional incubation program in partnership with the IDB/IMF that aims to increase the long-term economic growth of early-stage social entrepreneurs in Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Previously, Ms. Morazán worked led the expansion of iCare Benefits, a social impact enterprise operating in Southeast Asia, into Latin America. She also worked as a Senior Consultant for Kaiser Associates Latin America. Ms. Morazán is a Fulbright scholar and an Industrial Engineer with an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Delaine Patricia Morgan
Manager of the Business Information Services Department
Jamaica's National Investment and Export Promotion Agency (JAMPRO)
dmorgan@jamprocorp.com
@jamprocorp

Delaine Morgan is a Manager of the Business Information Services Department at Jamaica's National Investment and Export Promotion Agency (JAMPRO), where she has held key executive and managerial positions. In her current role, Ms. Morgan spearheads the Business Information Services (BIS) department, which focuses on enhancing the export competitiveness of Jamaican firms and initiating new investments in key sectors (e.g. agribusiness, manufacturing, ICT, creative and service industries). As a senior manager of JAMPRO, Ms. Morgan identifies and generates critical investment leads and provides strategic advice to Jamaican businesses, helps improve their export capabilities, and increase access to international markets. Ms. Morgan also works with public & private sector stakeholders to improve Jamaica's trade facilitation process. Ms. Morgan has also held the positions of Programme Manager for the €28.67M Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) jointly funded by the European Union (EU) and the Government of Jamaica (2004-2008) and Vice President, Trade and Business Development Division (2008-2013) at JAMPRO. Ms. Morgan has a Bachelor of Arts (History & Economics), and a Master's of International Business.
José Alonso Huerta Cruz

Chief Executive Officer
Council of Science, Technology and Innovation in Hidalgo State (CITNOVA)
alonshuerta@hidalgo.gob.mx
@CITNOVA

José Alonso Huerta Cruz is the Chief Executive Officer at the Council of Science, Technology and Innovation in Hidalgo State (CITNOVA), the public agency responsible for promoting knowledge-based development in Hidalgo and coordinating the state’s public policies on the knowledge economy. Mr. Huerta is also the Secretary of the National Science and Technology State Agencies Network, Vice President at Mexican Association of Executives of Applied Research and Technological Development, and National Coordinator of Nodes at Red Global MX. Alonso has Master’s Degrees in Economic and Financial Engineering, Business Administration, and in Public Management, as well as Bachelor’s Degrees in Business Administration and Law.

Guadalupe Itzel Villa

Director General of Entrepreneurship and Financing Programs
National Entrepreneurship Institute (INADEM)
itzel.villa@inadem.gob.mx
@itzel_vs

Guadalupe Itzel Villa is General Director for Entrepreneurship Programs and Financing at Mexico’s National Entrepreneurship Institute (INADEM), within the Mexican Ministry of Economy. Ms. Villa is also involved in initiatives with the entrepreneurial ecosystem at the national and international level. In 2014, Ms. Villa participated in the emerging leaders program “Mexican Innovative Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer” from the Department of the State. She has also participated in an SME Policy Sharing Program in South Korea. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Relationships from the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) and has a certification in creative leadership and innovation facilitation by the Creativity Certification Center of the University of Buffalo, N.Y.
Liliana Araceli Reyes-Castrejón

Venture Capital Director
National Entrepreneurship Institute (INADEM)
Secretariat of Economy
liliana.reyes@inadem.gob.mx
@LiliReyesC

Liliana Reyes is Venture Capital Director at Mexico's National Entrepreneurship Institute (INADEM), an institution within the Mexican Ministry of Economy which aims to implement, execute and coordinate national policy to support entrepreneurs and SMEs, and foster innovation and competitiveness in national and international markets. In this role, Ms. Reyes has designed programs to support the creation of new VC Funds and the mechanism to improve their execution. Ms. Reyes is also in charge of coordinating the Mexican-United States Entrepreneurship and Innovation Council (MUSEIC) and is part of the Pacific Alliance Innovation Working Group, through which she fosters initiatives to improve collaboration in innovation and entrepreneurship projects among Colombia, Chile, Perú and Mexico. Ms. Reyes has over 17 years of experience in project evaluation, technical assistance, and project management at development banks. Ms. Reyes holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Affairs, and Master's Degrees in Local Economic Development and International Cooperation and Project Management.

Eugenio José Reyes

Executive Director
World Trade Center Monterrey
Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon
eugenio.reyesg@uanl.mx
ereyes@adomill.com
@wtc.uanl

Eugenio Reyes is the Executive Director of the World Trade Center Monterrey at the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon. In this role, Dr. Reyes oversees the operations of three nested centers, the WTC, the SBDC Center, and the “Punto de la Red” generating more than MXN$400 million annually in increased sales and 2,000 plus jobs by means of helping SMEs. Previously, Dr. Reyes led the Mexican Association of SBDCs. Dr. Reyes has a Ph.D. in Management, an M.I.M. from Thunderbird, an M.B.A. from NTU in Singapore and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering.
Paola Ferrario
Vice President of the Global Entrepreneurship Network in Paraguay
paola@challengerpy.org
@GENParaguay - @Pao_Ferrario

Paola Ferrario is the Vice President of the Global Entrepreneurship Network in Paraguay. In this role, Ms. Ferrario oversees the operation of the Global Entrepreneurship Week activities, where this year she secured a joint venture with the National Government to bring the White House's Innovation and The Unreasonable Institute Mentor, Jeff Hoffman, to Paraguay. Ms. Ferrario is also the President of the State Alumni Paraguay, a non-profit organization that brings together all U.S. Embassy scholars to give back to their communities and create positive impact. Furthermore, she is CEO of Challenger Paraguay, a for profit start-up that seeks to benefit citizens of Paraguay of all ages who want to improve their knowledge through progressive and challenging programs to acquire and improve their entrepreneurial skill-sets. Ms. Ferrario studied Science Communications at the National University of Asunción.

María Liz Palacios
Technical Cabinet Director
Viceministry of Education
malizpalacios@gmail.com

María Liz Palacios is the Cabinet Director at the Viceministry of Basic Education of Paraguay. In this role she works near the Viceminister of Basic Education to collaborate with 9 Misional Directions which are in charge of all schools in the country, and also coordinates actions with other areas such as Planning, Cabinet of the Minister or Judicial assessment.

Previously, she worked as director in other areas of the public sector. María Liz is an economist graduated from the National University of Asunción and has a master degree in Policy and Public Management from the Catholic University.
Jorge Alfredo Huarachi
Principal Professor and Director of Innovation
Catholic University of Saint Toribian of Mogrovejo
jhuarachi@hotmail.com

Jorge Alfredo Huarachi is a Principal Professor and Director of Innovation at Catholic University of Saint Toribian of Mogrovejo (USAT). In this role, Mr. Huarachi conducts research at USAT’s Entrepreneur Development Center to explore the restrictions and capabilities of the economic sectors in the region of Lambayeque. He is also the leader of the technical group that works with the regional government to construct the regional innovation agenda for Lambayeque.

Mr. Huarachi received his Ph.D and M.Sc in Agricultural Economics at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, his MBA at ESAN University in Lima, his MA in Public Administration at Catholic University Sapienza in Lima, and his Bachelor’s and Engineering Degree in Animal Science at the Agrarian University of La Molina Lima.

Jacqueline Caroline Emmanuel-Flood
Chief Executive Officer
Trade Export Promotion Agency (TEPA)
ceo@tepa.org.lc
@SaintLuciaTEPA - @JacquelineEmman

Jacqueline Emmanuel-Flood is the CEO of the Saint Lucia Trade Promotion Agency, an institution that spearheads the development and implementation of Saint Lucia’s national Export Development Strategy. Previously, Ms. Emmanuel-Flood served as the Director of the Office of Private Sector Relations, an institution that was responsible for the implementation of the private sector development program in Saint Lucia. Ms. Emmanuel-Flood has worked in both the public and private sectors in Saint Lucia and at the level of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). She has a degree in Economics and a Master's Degree in Project Analysis, Finance and Investment.
Reina Tamara A. Raveles

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism
Reina.raveles@minhi.gov.sr

Reina Raveles is Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Suriname. Previously, Ms. Raveles worked at the National Assembly (Parliament) as a Project Manager in institutional strengthening. She has also served as a Policy Advisor in the Cabinet of the President, addressing private sector issues, and has piloted an innovation center program under the Office of the Vice President. In addition Ms. Raveles is a part-time lecturer at UNASAT College’s Department of Intellectual Property, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Before working for the government Ms. Raveles worked in the private sector as a business development consultant.

Indera Sagewan-Alli

Executive Director, Caribbean Competitiveness Forum
info@caribbeancompetitiveness.com

Indera Sagewan-Alli is the Executive Director and Principal Consultant of the Caribbean Competitiveness Foundation, an organization that supports the growth of indigenous based economic clusters in the Caribbean to move up value chains into sustainable profitability. In this role, Ms. Sagewan-Alli spearheads applied market research, cluster mapping, value chain analysis and strategy development for selected clusters. Previously, Ms. Sagewan-Alli held the position of Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness at the University of the West Indies (2011-2016), among other relevant positions.
Sara Beatriz Goldberg

Manager of Operations  
National Agency for Research and Innovation – ANII  
sgoldberg@anii.org.uy  
@ANIIuy - @sara_goldberg

Ms. Goldberg is responsible for the design and management of the different instruments of the Agency. She has more than 20 years of experience in Project Management in the private and public sector in areas such as innovation, quality management, human capital management, entrepreneurship, strategic innovation, and competitiveness. She has been a consultant on innovation and entrepreneurship of the government of Peru and the Province of Córdoba, Argentina. Ms. Goldberg has a Human Resources Graduate Degree from the Catholic University of Uruguay, and she has a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from the National Technological University of Argentina.

María Magdalena Giuria

Director Center of Innovation  
Catholic University of Uruguay  
mgiuria@ucu.edu.uy  
@UCUoficial

Magdalena Giuria is Director of the Center of Innovation at the Catholic University of Uruguay. She oversees the programmes carried out by the center. These include the Universitie's incubator and pre-incubator, as well as raising awareness activities and training courses for both teachers and students. Formerly, she was Project Manager on Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Uruguay (ANII), a government agency that allocates grants to businesses and startups, and an Entrepreneurship Professor at ORT University. Magdalena is a Certified Public accountant and has an MBA; both from ORT University.
Gabriel D. Youtsey

Chief Innovation Officer, University of California

gdyoutsey@ucanr.edu
@gabeyoutsey - @ucanr

Gabriel (Gabe) Youtsey serves as the Chief Innovation Officer for University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (US ANR). In this role, Mr. Youtsey leads UC ANR’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship initiative, working both within UC and with industry, government and academic institutions to partner in creating an innovation and entrepreneurship program focused on food, agriculture and natural resources. Prior to his innovation appointment, Mr. Youtsey led UC ANR’s information technology driving programmatic, educational, administrative and marketing-oriented projects. He served as the Deputy CIO at UC Davis, where he gained experience leading campus-wide projects that involved and affected UC Davis faculty, students and staff. Before coming to the University of California, he was an information technology advisor at KPMG, where he led regional and national information technology and security advisory projects in food, agriculture, retail, banking, software and other sectors.

L. Kevin Johns

Director of Economic Development of the City of Austin, Texas

kevin.johns@austintexas.gov

L. Kevin Johns is the Director of Economic Development for Austin, Texas. In this capacity, Mr. Johns is responsible for a nationally recognized team of 72 economic specialists. He is nationally recognized in the fields of Economic Development, Strategic Planning, Technology and Innovation, and Visioning. His accomplishments include over 230 successful public-private partnerships in communities across the U.S. and IEDC 5 Gold Medal Awards, the Harvard Ash Government Award, and the APA Secretary of HUD Economic Empowerment Award. Mr. Johns was previously Director of Planning for the Atlanta U.S. Regional Office of the Parsons Corporation; Director of Palm Beach County, Florida.; and Director of two of the nation’s fastest growing suburbs, both in metro Atlanta. Mr. Johns has a Master’s Degree in City Planning from Georgia Tech, and a BA from Case Western Reserve University.
Stephen Tripp has served as Mayor of Ayden, North Carolina since 2003. Currently, Mayor Tripp is the Vice-Chair of the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency and the Greenville Area Municipal Planning Organization. He also serves as a Board member on the Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority. Previously, Mayor Tripp was a Town Commissioner for Ayden from 1993 - 2003 and also served as Board member on the Pitt County School Board. Mayor Tripp has a B.S. in Pharmacy and serves as President of Vidant SurgiCenter in Greenville, N.C.

Erika María Medina serves as Chief Business Development Officer for the Department of Economic Development & Commerce and the Industrial Development Company in Puerto Rico. In this role, Ms. Medina diversifies Puerto Rico’s economic structure by pitching new economies and collaborating with local and international stakeholders to identify opportunities for promotion and economic growth. In addition, Ms. Medina is the liaison to investors and the entrepreneurial ecosystem, constantly searching for collaborations between sectors to harvest the innovation hub on the island. She has over 15 years of global experience in strategy, marketing, and business development. Ms. Medina earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Public Communication from American University in Washington DC, and a Master’s degree in Public Policy from Columbia University in New York.
Sebastián Vidal
Executive Director of Parallel18
Puerto Rico

Sebastian Vidal is the Executive Director of Parallel18 an international Startup Program based in Puerto Rico, hosted by the Puerto Rico Science, Technology and Research Trust. Before this, Mr. Vidal led government funded program Start-Up Chile, aiming to attract globally minded entrepreneurs to his native Chile in order to transform the country into a world-recognized innovation capital. Through Start-Up Chile, he was able to work side by side with more than 1,000 startups in different stages and industries, and witness a country’s cultural transformation towards entrepreneurship, guiding the program in to the most innovative company of LatinAmerica according to FastCompany in 2015. He has also helped develop technology hub public policy strategies in countries like Peru, Brazil, Malaysia and South Korea, and consulted the World Bank for a technology development ecosystem project in Lebanon. He has invested in some startups and also has been a mentor in different accelerators and entrepreneurship programs such as Stanford Ignite, Founder Institute and others.

Ole Johann Janssen
Deputy Director General
Innovation and Technology Policy
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy
Ole.janssen@bmwi.bund.de
Germany

Ole Janssen is the Deputy Director General of Innovation and Technology Policy in Germany’s Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. In this role, Dr. Janssen oversees general issues of national and international innovation and technology policy; accreditation, conformity assessment, and metrology; supervision of the Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing; the German National Metrology Institute (PTB); the Central Innovation Programme for SME; and industrial research for companies and innovation guidance for SMEs. He has a degree in Economics from Hannover University and completed his Doctorate with the thesis “Currency Board Systems.”
Nikolai Ziegler
Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Nikolai.ziegler@bmwi.bund.de

Nikolai Ziegler is a Policy Officer at Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Working in the innovation and technology department, Dr. Ziegler is responsible for innovation policy design, i.e. the development, implementation and evaluation of the ministry’s technology-neutral programs dedicated to shortening the way from ideas to the market. Previously, Dr. Ziegler worked for the European Affairs Department of the same Ministry, and prior to that in the Industrial Policy Department. Before his service in the federal government, Dr. Ziegler worked for the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce where he connected academia and business in the greater metropolitan area. Dr. Ziegler holds a PhD in Economics from the Helmut-Schmidt-University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg.

Alan Uriel Hofman
Director Latin America Desk Israel Innovation Authority
Alan.hofman@innovationisrael.org.il

Alan Uriel Hofman is the Director of the Latin America Desk in Israel's Innovation Authority. In this role, Mr. Hofman is responsible for the development and implementation of joint R&D collaboration programs with organizations and companies in Latin America, developing innovation-based synergies with private and public organizations in the region, including the Inter-American Development Bank, Conacyt (Mexico), MDIC (Brazil), MINCyT (Argentina), ANII (Uruguay) and Corfo (Chile). Mr. Hofman is an experienced project manager, trained in international leadership, working group management, and strategic project design at local and international levels. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with a degree in International Relations and Political Science.
Sunhak Cho
Director of Advanced Manufacturing and ICT Investment
Ministry of Science and ICT
ryancho@korea.kr

Sunhak Cho is the Director for Advanced Manufacturing and ICT Investment at the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea. In this role, Mr. Sunhak is responsible for coordinating government investment in manufacturing, information and communication technologies, bioinformatics, and regional innovation projects. Previously, he was the Counselor for Science, Technology, and Innovation at the Korean Embassy in the United States. Mr. Sunhak has worked 19 years within the Korean Government, where he oversaw national R&D programs, defense programs, transportation and infrastructure projects, and education projects leveraging new technological innovation. He also has private sector experience in the private equity, venture capital, semiconductor and automotive industries. He has received his MPA from Harvard University, and engineering degrees from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and from U.C. Berkeley.

Lisa Michelle Harding
Coordinator, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development
Technical Cooperation Division
Caribbean Development Bank
hardinl@caribank.org

Lisa Harding is an Operations Officer in the Private Sector Development Division of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Her portfolio includes coordinating regional technical assistance interventions for the private sector in order to build institutional capacity and strengthen private sector firms in the Bank’s Borrowing Member Countries. Her current portfolio covers access to finance, improving competitiveness of SMEs, trade facilitation and the creative industries. Ms. Harding also held positions at KPMG and the Barbados Investment & Development Corporation, where she was responsible for the development of Barbados’ first small business Incubator Programme. She holds a Master’s in Business Administration with a specialization in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management, from Imperial College - United Kingdom.
Fernando López
President
Latin American Industrial Association (LAIA)
secretariatecnica@aila.la
@ailaindustrias

Fernando López is the President of the Latin American Industrial Association (LAIA), the umbrella organization for the Chambers of Industry of 16 Latin American Countries. Mr. Lopez is an entrepreneur mainly in the plastics sector, having been a founding partner and director of POLYTEC (1989, Flexible Packaging), LACOPLAST (2008, Rigid Plastics Containers), ECOPLAST (1995 Recycling Products and Services), and MyAPPSoftware/Criptonube (2013, Cloud Services and IT Solutions and Support). Mr. Lopez is also a Trustee of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala, where he has also been a professor in its Acton MBA program. He was also Dean of the Chemical Industrial Engineering Program of Universidad Rafael Landivar (URL), where he also taught Engineering courses. He has a degree in Chemical Industrial Engineering from URL.

Lance Leverenz
Senior Director of Business Development
Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
lleverenz@padf.org

Lance Leverenz is the Senior Director of Business Development at the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). Mr. Leverenz leads PADF’s Public Sector outreach to USAID, State Department, and other bilateral and multilateral donors. He has successfully secured funding for a wide variety of relief and development activities including water and sanitation, emergency disaster response, human trafficking, and media freedom for countries across the Western Hemisphere. Prior to joining PADF, Mr. Leverenz worked for the American Red Cross, directing their Latin American programs, and as a government and private-sector international development consultant. Mr. Leverenz holds a Master’s degree in Economics and a Bachelor’s degree in International Affairs, both from the American University in Washington, DC.
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More rights for more people
Kim Osborne is currently the Executive Secretary for Integral Development at the OAS. For almost two decades she has dedicated herself to the socio-economic development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. As a pioneer of the OAS Small Tourism Enterprise Program, an internationally recognized best practice, she focused on assisting small and medium enterprises achieve competitiveness and profitability by combining internationally recognized standards with high-value products, targeted marketing and branding. She is co-author of the Business Management and Operations Manual for Small Hotels and led the tourism training and capacity building program in the region.

From 2008 to 2011, she was appointed as the OAS Country Representative to Belize and in that role managed the OAS' programs and relations with that country; navigating the political spectrum, while implementing numerous initiatives on sustainable livelihoods, institutional capacity building, tourism training and certification, women's empowerment, among others. Osborne is a founding member of the Center for Community Resource Development, an NGO set up to assist the most disadvantaged communities, by combating poverty through the application of an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology.

More recently, Osborne has served as the head of the Technical Cooperation Section at the OAS Secretariat for Integral Development where she oversaw the Organization's Development Cooperation and partnerships program. In that capacity she led the re-structuring of the OAS Development Cooperation Fund and spearheaded the application of an alliance model to maximize multi-stakeholder partnerships for development and south-south cooperation. In 2016 she was elected as President of the OAS Staff Association where she spearheaded the effort towards the establishment of the OAS' alternative work schedule scheme.

Before joining the OAS, Ms. Osborne was employed at the National Development Corporation of Dominica and has also held private sector positions in both Dominica and the Netherlands Antilles. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Management and a Bachelor's degree on Hospitality Management-Travel and Tourism Studies.
Dennis Alvord serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs, directing and supervising the activities of the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Office of Regional Affairs (ORA), which includes all six EDA Regional Offices, the Performance and National Programs Division, EDA's Loan Guarantee Program, the Integrated Economic Development team, and EDA's Organizational Development. He is the Grants Officer for the agency's Regional Innovation Strategies program, which awards grants to state, local, non-profit and tribal organizations to create and sustain regional systems of innovation, entrepreneurship and venture capital development. Earlier in his career, Mr. Alvord served in EDA in various positions, including Acting Deputy Assistant Secretaries for ORA and External Affairs. He also led the bureau's work with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development where he served as Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Territorial Policy in Urban Areas.

Previously, Mr. Alvord served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In this role, he worked on a broad portfolio of department-wide management, operations, program and policy issues. As Senior Advisor, he served as Co-Chair of the Department of Commerce's 2016-17 Presidential Transition, coordinating efforts across the Department and with the White House and President Elect's Transition Team. He has also served as Executive Director of BusinessUSA, a multiagency customer service initiative that promotes and improves access to business assistance resources, and as Executive Director of the Department of Commerce's CommerceConnect initiative, which simplified access to the department's business solutions.

Before joining the federal government, Mr. Alvord was a Project Manager in the Infrastructure Finance Group of the Bethesda, Maryland-based environmental and transportation consulting firm Apogee Research, Inc.

Mr. Alvord has a Master of Public Administration degree from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the State University of New York College at Cortland. He is a recipient of the 2015 President's Award for Customer Service.
As DAS for the Western Hemisphere, Mr. Andersen is responsible for developing programs, policies and strategies designed to strengthen the United States’ commercial position in the Western Hemisphere. He oversees a network of 24 field offices throughout the region that help to carry out this mission.

Mr. Andersen has held a number of senior positions within the Department of Commerce, including Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Global Markets and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Operations. He has been involved in a number of major international and bilateral negotiations, including the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and Free Trade Negotiations with Canada, Chile, Central America and the Dominican Republic, Peru, Colombia, and Panama. He was a key member of two Presidential Commissions focused on providing assistance to a free Cuba.

Mr. Andersen also served as Chairman of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Small and Medium Enterprise Working Group for the 2015-2016 APEC years.

He is a recipient of the Department of Commerce’s Gold Medal, as well as three Department of Commerce Silver Medals. Mr. Andersen has a Masters of Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in history from the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Luis Porto
Senior Advisor for Strategy and Organizational Development, Organization of American States

Luis Porto serves as the Strategic Adviser of the OAS since June 2015. Previously, he was Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013-2015), Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (2011-2013) in Uruguay and President of the National Corporation for Development of Uruguay (2010-2011). He has worked as a senior consultant in the national public and private sector, and international sector. Among other organizations, he has worked for the OAS, the IDB, UNDP and FES. He has worked as an international consultant in Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and for Mercosur.

Luis Porto has been Professor of Industrial Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of the Republic, Uruguay from 1994 to 2015. He has been professor in different universities in Uruguay and abroad in Masters of Business.

Luis Porto holds a degree in Economics from the University of the Republic and a Master in Economics from the Catholic University of Leuven. He is the author of numerous books and articles on topics related to the financial system, competitiveness, investment promotion, and productive policies. He has participated as speaker in several topics of his expertise in events, seminars and conferences in more than 20 countries in Latin America and the United States, Europe and Asia.
Maryse Robert is director of the Department of Economic Development in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) at the General Secretariat for the Organization of American States (OAS). Her department promotes inclusive economic growth, competitiveness and innovation in OAS member states through policy dialogue, institutional strengthening and capacity building to facilitate the exchange of experiences and successful practices particularly through horizontal cooperation.

The Department of Economic Development acts as technical secretariat for a number of hemispheric ministerial meetings (science and technology, tourism, culture) and meetings of senior officials (Americas Competitiveness Forum-ACF and the Inter-American Competitiveness Network-RIAC, as well as the Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities).

Dr. Robert, a Canadian national, is currently adjunct professor on international trade policy at the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus, Barbados) and has taught at the University of Barcelona, Georgetown University, George Mason University, HEC-Montréal and ENAP-Montréal. She has authored numerous studies on trade and development-related issues. She is the co-editor with José M. Salazar-Xirinachs of Toward Free Trade in the Americas/Hacia el libre comercio en las Américas (Brookings Institution Press/OAS, 2001) and the author of Negotiating NAFTA: Explaining the Outcome in Culture, Textiles, Autos, and Pharmaceuticals (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000). She is an economist with training in international trade law. She holds a Ph.D. from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and a Master's degree in applied economics from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) (Montreal, Canada). Before joining the OAS, she worked on trade and development at the World Bank and the United Nations, and in the private sector on telecom issues.
Jorge Arce
Director & Senior Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service - Jacksonville

Mr. Arce is Director and Senior Trade Specialist with the U.S. Commercial Service (U.S. Department of Commerce) in Jacksonville. His duties include assisting and consulting companies in North Florida, from Jacksonville to Pensacola, on exporting "Made in USA" products AND services worldwide. He does this through a worldwide network of 160 offices in over 60 countries around the world. Prior to his arrival at the Jacksonville U.S. Export Assistance Center (USEAC) in August 2003, Mr. Arce was assigned to the Miami USEAC from 1995 to 1998. In 1998 he was assigned as an International Trade Specialist at the Ft. Lauderdale USEAC. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Arce was the Deputy Director and Content Manager for BuyUSAinfo.net, a U.S. Commercial Service information portal, now merged with www.export.gov. He returned to the Miami USEAC in 2002 until his assignment to open the Jacksonville USEAC.

Earlier in his career, from 1992 to 1995, Mr. Arce assisted in the global market research management for the U.S. Department of Commerce out of Washington DC for their overseas operations. He was involved in the training of market research personnel throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Over the past several years, he has been on special assignments in South Africa, Hong Kong, Cairo (1995 and 2004), Paris, London, Buenos Aires, The Hague, and Brussels. He holds a B.S from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia with a degree in International Affairs. He obtained his MBA from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. He is a Certified Global Business Professional. He speaks fluent Spanish and conversational French. He is also a U.S. Army veteran having served in Germany with the U.S. Army Aviation Branch. He is married to Maricela and has two young daughters.

John Atwood
Acting Director of Public Affairs, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

John Atwood began his career with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1996 and helped to implement a modern public affairs campaign for the agency. John currently manages the priorities of the office and serves as a primary contact for the media and as a liaison for media relations with the Office of the Secretary. Prior to joining EDA, John served as Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs for the Secretary of Commerce where he helped to coordinate inter-office and inter-agency activities and served as a media advance contact on several Secretarial trade missions. Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, John served as a Congressional Liaison Specialist at the U.S. Interstate Commerce Commission (now U.S. Surface Transportation Board) and as a Staff Assistant for four U.S. Senators. John holds a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Maryland.
Jon Austin

Alternate Representative to the OAS, U.S. Department of State

Jon comes to the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS from a year as a mid-career fellow at Princeton University. His last post in Latin America was as deputy political counselor in Buenos Aires. He previously served abroad at U.S. embassies in Kabul, Mexico City, Baghdad, and Algiers. He was a staff officer to the Secretary of State during an earlier posting in Washington. Jon is a political officer by skill code but has also completed economic, consular, and staff tours. He did his undergrad and graduate studies in history, international relations, and political sociology at Stanford University and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. He speaks Spanish and French. Jon hails from Duluth, MN.

Adriana Bonilla

Technical Secretariat, Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)
Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology, Organization of American States

Adriana Bonilla is Project Manager at the Organization of American States with over 15 years of experience executing international development projects, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and supporting SMEs development. In her role, Adriana is responsible for organizing the Americas Competitiveness Forum in direct interaction with Ministers of Economy/Finance/Industry/Trade and private sector representatives, coordinate the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) program, and produce the Signs of Competitiveness Report publication. In her daily work, Adriana interacts with over 400 regional contacts in the Americas and beyond. Prior to her work in the OAS (2007 - present), Adriana worked at ProColombia (former ProExport), Orbitel Telecommunications Company, and in the Embassy of Colombia in Spain. She has lead the development of 10+ publications and more than +800 official documents. She has also been an entrepreneur with a candy company (FAD), Co-founder of a Colombian initiative called "A Smile for Colombia", and currently serves as Board Member at Quántica Company where social entrepreneurship expansion is the core mission. Adriana was selected by the Office of the President of Colombia to participate in the G8 Young Leaders Summit in 2012 in representation of the country.

The OAS Project Manager is Colombian, a fierce defender of gender equality, and passionate for initiatives that improve the well-being of the countries and citizens of the Americas.
Henry Childs II  
Special Advisor, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

Henry serves as a principal advisor to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) senior leadership on economic development responsibilities and activities. Supports effective partnerships with other federal agencies, national organizations and international organizations concerned with economic development. Guides and coordinates the strategic planning process and directs the implementation of the activities necessary to achieve EDA goals and objectives. Provides direction and coordination to the Offices of Chief Counsel, Regional Affairs, Finance and Management Services, External Affairs, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Annemarie Fox  
Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

Annemarie Fox came to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) in July 2016 to support the EDA public affairs office and manage EDA's digital media program. Prior to joining EDA, Annemarie served as the digital media manager for the Defense Health Agency (DHA) at the Department of Defense where she spearheaded communication strategies to address the healthcare needs of military families. Most notably, Annemarie launched and managed official Twitter accounts for the organization's top two senior leaders; the DHA Director, a three-star Navy Vice Admiral and the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Karen S. Guice. Her digital media efforts at DHA earned awards from the National Association of Government Communicators and Hermes Creative Awards. Annemarie holds a B.A. in Communications from George Mason University.
Dr. Barrett Haga

Senior Administrator for Economic Engagement, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

Dr. Haga is currently the Senior Administrator for Economic Engagement and Executive Secretary for Skills where he is responsible for the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) - U.S. Department of Commerce international portfolio and major thought leadership. As a member of EDA's senior staff, he is also the Department of Commerce's lead for workforce development and skills across all twelve bureaus of the Department. As the “Chief Geek” of EDA, he inspires communities to think differently in the new economy to increase the prospect of advancing commerce and trade between economies and accelerate business opportunities to create jobs.

Prior to this, he was the Senior Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist. As a senior member of the division, he assisted in coordinating two major offices (the Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of the Executive Secretariat). Before joining EDA, he worked at the U.S. Department of Labor advising senior leadership on economic development, workforce, competency modeling, and outreach projects relating to healthcare, alternative energy, and manufacturing. His other employment experience includes working for the Florida Community College System, the Florida Office of the Attorney General, the Florida Department of Education, the United States Senate, and the United States House of Representatives. Dr. Haga holds a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development; a M.P.A. in Public Administration and Policy from the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at Florida State University; and a double B.A. in Political Science and Greek and Roman Studies from Rhodes College.
Kenneth R. Mouradian
Director & Senior Trade Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service - Orlando

As the Director of the Orlando U.S. Export Assistance Center, Kenneth R. Mouradian is responsible to facilitate the export of U.S.-origin commodities, services and technologies from eleven counties in Central Florida. He is also the Executive Secretary of the Northern and Central – West Florida District Export Council; Member of the Management Board of the National Entrepreneur Center; and, serves as an IPR Specialist within the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. Mr. Mouradian came to Orlando in 2002 as a Foreign Service Officer (U.S. diplomat) on a two-year tour-of-duty. His previous assignments were as Second Secretary for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Mission to the European Union, where he was responsible for the biotechnology, pharmaceutical medicines, customs and taxation portfolios; and Management Program Analyst in Career Development and Assignments (Washington, DC), where he worked on special projects, such as the development and administration of a specialized version of the Foreign Service Exam for the recruitment of Foreign Service Officers into the Commercial Service. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Commerce, Mr. Mouradian was Marketing Specialist at Trellis Communications Corporation (Manchester, NH); Editor of the IBC USA BioMedical Library Series and Editorial Assistant of Drug and Market Development at IBC USA (Marlborough, MA); and Lead Analyst for European Markets and Biotechnology at GIC Trade / GIC Agricultural Group (Alexandria, VA). He also worked on the MacSharry Reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy for a field office of the European Commission, Directorate-General Agriculture (LaRochelle, France); and he helped to develop a citywide recycling program for the City of Nashua, NH.

Mr. Mouradian possesses a Master of Arts in European Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University (Washington, DC) and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University (Washington, DC). Mr. Mouradian reads, writes and speaks French fluently.
Cesar Parga is Chief of the Section of Competitiveness, Innovation and Technology of the Department of Economic Development of the Organization of American States (OAS). Mr. Parga is in charge of the OAS Competitiveness Program which serves as Technical Secretariat of the InterAmerican Competitiveness Network, a forum that promotes public policy dialogue and exchange of experiences between high-level authorities and public-private Competitiveness Councils of the region. He also coordinates the support to the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Science and Technology and the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT).

Mr. Parga is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Center in Washington DC. He graduated from the Law School of the University of Guadalajara, México and was awarded a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Patent and Intellectual Property Rights (IP) at the Law School of the George Washington University. He also received a Post-Graduate Certificate on International Trade from the University Institute of European Studies and the ILO International Training Center in Torino, Italy.

He serves as faculty guide of the Executive MBA Program of the McDonough School of Business of Georgetown University and guest lecturer at the American University Law School in Washington D.C., the HUB of Technology Commercialization and Transfer of the Americas in La Paz, B.C.S., Mexico. He was a visiting researcher at the National University of Singapore, guest lecturer of the University of Baylor Law School and of the IP Graduate Program at the University of the Americas in Ecuador. He has collaborated as a volunteer international evaluator of technology transfer projects for INNPULSA, Colombia, and as peer reviewer of the ICC’s innovation and intellectual property paper series in 2015.
Ms. Ricks has close to 25 years of experience as part of the International Trade Administration. She served as the Director for the Americas Project Team, Office of the Western Hemisphere, for two years. In June 2012, she became the Senior Advisor on Global Affairs with the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) where she helped to develop the Agency’s global strategy. In January 2013, she joined the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee (TPCC) as a Senior Advisor, spearheading the U.S. government’s Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign. In January 2014, she returned to Global Markets as Senior Policy Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere, assisting with ITA’s engagement on trade and economic issues related to entrepreneurship, education, and competitiveness.

Early in her tenure with ITA, she provided guidance on market access and compliance issues as they relate to business opportunities with Mexico and Canada. She also contributed to the development of U.S. trade policy in the Western Hemisphere for a number of U.S. bilateral and multilateral negotiations, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), the U.S. - Chile Free Trade Agreement, and the U.S. -Central America- DominicanRepublic FTA, as well as, the U.S. free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and Peru. In 2007, Ms. Ricks was recruited to join a special regional coordination team created to design and implement key strategic initiatives in the Americas surrounding the issues of competitiveness and economic development.

Ms. Ricks is a recipient of two Gold Medal Awards, the Department’s highest honor, a Silver Medal, and Bronze Medal. In 2009, she developed the concept for an award-winning international opportunities seminar for minority-owned firms, which reached over 1000 individuals. She has traveled extensively throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as well as across the United States and spoken at numerous events and conferences on behalf of the Department, consulting with the U.S. private sector and other invested stakeholder groups on key trade and economic subject matters.

Ms. Ricks is a graduate of Hampton University’s School of Business in Hampton, Virginia.
Laura Stone
Internal Communications Specialist, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce’s

Laura Stone is the Internal Communications Specialist at The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA). She oversees unified messaging among the headquarters offices and the regional offices at EDA. Laura is from Cincinnati, Ohio and is a proud University of Richmond Spider, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. She obtained her Master’s Degree in Public Affairs and Corporate Communications from Georgetown University, and went onto the public service as a communications specialist at the Department of Justice. Since then, Laura has worked in both the private and public sector, writing communications plans and implementing strategies for a variety of organizations. Laura currently lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband, young daughter and rambunctious Labrador retriever.

Greg Vaday
Economic Development Representative, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

Greg Vaday is the Economic Development Representative for Florida for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA). He is assigned to EDA’s Atlanta regional office. He joined EDA in May of 2016 and serves as the point of contact for EDA programs and activities. Mr. Vaday provides technical assistance to prospective applicants across Florida in developing proposals and grant applications that reflect bottom-up strategies for economic development that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency.

Prior to joining EDA, Mr. Vaday worked in economic development planning, project development and grant management for the public sector at both local and regional levels, initially with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council in southeast Florida as its Economic Development Coordinator and Palm Beach County as its Principal Planner for the Department of Economic Sustainability. In these capacities, Mr. Vaday worked with local, state and federal partners to help communities secure and deploy funding to build critical infrastructure and facilities to support long-term economic development and job growth. Mr. Vaday began his career in urban planning and economic development with the international architecture/engineering firm of Bermello Ajamil & Partners, Inc. in Miami. He has a Bachelor’s degree in Urban and Economic Geography from the University of Toronto and a Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University. Mr. Vaday served on the Board of the Florida Brownfields Association as both a member and Secretary-Treasurer.
Dakshina Voetsch
International Trade Specialist, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

As an International Trade Specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Dakshina works to assist U.S. companies expand and maintain their commercial presence in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay in addition to assisting them increase exports and trade. Dakshina supports U.S. company investments abroad by eliminating barriers to trade, advocating for competitive and fair trade, and promoting global economic prosperity. Over the past two years, Dakshina has focused efforts on deepening the commercial relationship with Argentina through the planning and execution of the U.S.-Argentina Commercial Dialogue. Dakshina joined the U.S. Department of Commerce in 2011 through the Student Career Experience Program while earning her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from American University in Washington, DC.

Sally Waley
Senior Economic Development Specialist, Economic Development Administration, US Department of Commerce

Sally Waley is the Senior Economic Development Specialist overseeing regional, innovative, and entrepreneurial initiatives for the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) Austin Regional Office. Her portfolio of projects has leveraged approximately $40M in private investment and created 1,500 jobs over the past two years.

A native Austinite and proud University of Texas Longhorn, Sally has spent time in Washington D.C. and overseas developing a career focused on building prosperity through collaborative partnerships and integrative planning. After completing her M.A. in International Commerce and Policy at George Mason University and working in the D.C. non-profit and think-tank sector, Sally served a 27-month term as a Heath and Community Development Agent in Peace Corps Cambodia. Locally, Sally serves as the Board President-Elect for the Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association and as a member of the steering committee for Austin’s International Business Coalition.
Leslie Wilson is an International Trade Specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce, specializing in trade and investment policy issues with Mexico and Canada. In this capacity, Wilson assists U.S. companies facing trade and market access barriers in Mexico and Canada. She also supports a number of binational and multilateral policy engagements, focusing on innovation, asset mapping, women's entrepreneurship, and energy initiatives in North America. In her role, Wilson also provides analysis related to trade agreement negotiations, specifically with the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the North American Free Trade Agreement. She is also active in developing robust stakeholder outreach to support these efforts.

Wilson holds her Bachelor’s degree in International Business from the University of San Diego and her Master of Arts in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her interests include the effects of trade on developing economies, economic development strategies, the role that public-private partnerships play in enhancing economic integration and competitiveness, and economic drivers of migration.
SelectUSA is the federal investment-promotion program focused on attracting job-creating business investment to the United States.

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For more information please contact:
Kesa Ackerman
Senior International Investment Specialist
SelectUSA
kesa.ackerman@trade.gov

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