

## Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region (News Briefs)

TAMPA BAY, Fla., June 6, 2006/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

### **OneSimpleLoan® Finds One Simple Solution in Tampa Bay**

OneSimpleLoan® (OSL), a nationwide student loan solutions company, announced plans to expand its corporate headquarters in Oldsmar, Florida, adding 52 new jobs paying above the average wage and retaining more than 30 existing positions. Key to OSL's decision to remain and expand in Pinellas County was Florida's Qualified Target Industry (QTI) incentive, a tax refund program through the State of Florida, Pinellas County, and its local municipalities. "Pinellas County Economic Development's (PCED) staff worked closely with us to ensure we understood all of the business incentives available to eligible companies creating new jobs. The assistance we received from PCED was a motivator for OSL to grow and expand in Florida," explains Paul Simino, founder and president of OneSimpleLoan. (Contact: Paul Simino, OneSimpleLoan, 877-663-7467, [www.onesimpleloan.com](http://www.onesimpleloan.com))

### **French Manufacturer Locates U.S. Operations in Tampa Bay**

Jean Niel, the oldest French manufacturer of perfumes and flavors with a rich 200-year history, will soon open its first manufacturing facility in North America in the Tampa Bay region. The 6,000-square-foot facility, which will open in June 2006, is located in the West Pasco Industrial Park in Odessa. Drawn to the Tampa Bay region to supply their long-time customer, Monin (also a French company) located in Clearwater, Jean Niel is following Monin's lead into the U.S. market. Monin first entered the U.S. market in the early 1990s, also with a start-up facility, and now occupies 60,000 square feet. Jean Niel hopes to experience similar growth in Pasco as it broadens its market in the U.S. (Contact: Michael Uzan, Jean Niel USA, [muzan@nielaromes.com](mailto:muzan@nielaromes.com))

### **Communities of Tampa Bay Make Top 10 in Inc. Boom Town Ranking**

According to *Inc.* magazine's annual list of the "hottest cities" to do business, the communities of Tampa Bay ranked among the top. The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metro area ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among "hottest large cities." Among the "hottest midsize cities" category, Sarasota-Bradenton ranked 4<sup>th</sup> and Lakeland ranked 8<sup>th</sup>. The magazine cited "Affordable business and living costs, terrific weather, and plentiful jobs keep attracting people to Tampa Bay." To learn more about living and working in the Tampa Bay region, visit [www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org). (Contact: Jennifer Taylor, Tampa Bay Partnership, 813-872-2809, [jtaylor@tampabay.org](mailto:jtaylor@tampabay.org).)

### **Tampa Bay to Host Big International Conference on Tiny Matters**

The 11th Annual International Commercialization of Micro and Nano Systems Conference (COMS 2006) will be held August 27-31, 2006 in St. Petersburg, Fla. COMS is the leading annual conference on micro-nanotechnology commercialization education. It brings together leaders in the field from across the world, representing organizations and companies from almost every sector of the community. These include leading industrialists, researchers, equipment vendors, customers, VC and angel investors, educators, media, professional organizations, and government. Tampa Bay has unique centers of excellence supporting the growth of MEMS and NANO technologies including the largest MEMS facility in the Southeast; a major research university – University of South Florida; one of the country's top cancer center research facilities – Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute; and a cluster of technology manufacturing companies with applications in medical device manufacturing, electronic components and national defense. (Contact: Dr. Carol Steele, USF Collect of Marine Science / Center for Ocean Technology, 727-553-3975, [csteele@seas.marine.usf.edu](mailto:csteele@seas.marine.usf.edu).)

### **City Unveils Plans for New Dali Museum and Waterfront Park Plaza**

Now that the Salvador Dali Museum has secured \$8 million in state money to relocate in downtown St. Petersburg, museum officials announced on May 31 they have commissioned an architect to complete plans for the \$28 million hurricane-resistant waterfront building and intend to begin construction by January 2007. During the same meeting, City Council members also passed a resolution to create a waterfront park plaza next to the new Dali Museum and the recently renovated Mahaffey Theater. The 500,000-square-foot museum next to the Mahaffey Theater is considered a key to the city's cultural renaissance. When combined with the planned 5-acre park on the bay front, it will be the largest waterfront park expansion in more than 100 years. (Contact: David Metz, City of St. Petersburg, 727-892-5350)

### **\$10 Million Gift to Benefit USF Health and Athletics**

Community philanthropists Carol and Frank Morsani have given the University of South Florida a gift of \$10 million, eligible for a \$7 million state match. In acknowledgement, the USF Board of Trustees on June 1 named two university projects after the Morsanis. The gift creates the Carol and Frank Morsani Center for Advanced Health Care, a model for teaching health care students in an advanced patient care center. The \$64 million facility is already under construction. The couple's gift also provides \$3 million toward a new football practice complex, named the Frank Morsani Football Practice Complex, and a new stadium for the women's softball team. The Morsanis total giving to USF has reached \$23 million. (Contact: Lara Wade, USF, 813-974-9060, [news@admin.usf.edu](mailto:news@admin.usf.edu).)

### **Tampa Bay High Schools Rank Among "America's Best"**

Tampa Bay high schools again ranked in the top 100 of "America's Best High Schools" in a survey published in *Newsweek* magazine recently. Among the top schools, Hillsborough High School in Tampa ranked at #11 nationwide; St. Petersburg High School at #63; Plant High School at #71; King High School at #73; and Palm Harbor University High School at #89. Learn more about the educational and other community assets of the Tampa Bay region at [www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org).

### **USF's Patel Center Dedicates Site of New Iconic Building**

The University of South Florida's Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions dedicated the site of its new building May 25 on the university's Tampa campus. The building's innovative and environmentally friendly design, created by a USF architecture student, was unveiled at the dedication ceremony. Groundbreaking for the 140,000-square-foot, concrete and glass structure is planned for Fall 2006 with occupancy in 2008. The University of South Florida launched the Patel Center last May, incorporating the USF Globalization Research Center as its research and education arm. The Center is part of a congressionally-funded consortium of globalization research centers across the U.S. (Contact: Dr. Kiran C. Patel Center for Global Solutions, 813-974-2954, [GlobalResearch@cas.usf.edu](mailto:GlobalResearch@cas.usf.edu))

### **Become a Doctor in 3 Years**

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, which has a branch campus in Bradenton, Florida, will start a Primary Care Scholars Pathway (PCSP) to reduce the time it takes to become a family physician. LECOM received approval from the American Osteopathic Association Committee on Osteopathic College Accreditation to condense four years of medical study into three. The program is designed to increase the number of family doctors sooner and to save students a year of medical expenses. The first PCSP class will begin their studies in October of 2006 and graduate with a Doctor of Osteopathic Degree in 2010. Graduates will still continue their education through three-year residency programs at selected hospitals. (Contact: Lisa Cambridge, LECOM, 941-782-9527, [lcambridge@lecom.edu](mailto:lcambridge@lecom.edu))

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