

Highlights of Economic and Business Growth in the Tampa Bay Region

TAMPA BAY, Fla., April 19, 2007/PRNewswire/ -- News briefs concerning the economic and business growth in the Tampa Bay Region from the Tampa Bay Partnership:

Tampa Bay RHIO Selected for First-of-Its-Kind Medical Data Exchange Pilot

Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), together with the Department of Defense (DoD), announced the formation of a partnership to pursue an interoperable network for sharing electronic medical information. The pilot project will be in the Tampa Bay area, with the Tampa Bay Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) taking a lead technical role. The project marks the first time the Defense Department and a non-federal entity have formed a partnership to share electronic medical records. The Tampa Bay RHIO is a public-private partnership committed to the development of a regional health information network. (Contact: Fernando Senra, AHCA, 850-922-5871)

Moffitt Receives \$7 million Grant to Study Ovarian Cancer

Researchers from H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute have received a \$7.3 million, five year grant from the National Cancer Institute to examine DNA and risk factor data and identify which women are at risk for ovarian cancer based on the makeup of their genes. Researchers hope the result may reveal novel targets for prevention and treatment. (Contact: Michelle Foley, 813-745-1505, michelle.foley@moffitt.org)

Scientists Try to Restore Reefs

Scientists from the Tampa Bay area are leading the first-ever efforts to transplant coral raised in land-based aquatic "farms" to damaged reefs in the Florida Keys. Scientists with The Florida Aquarium in Tampa conceived of the idea of "rescuing" coral fragments, attaching them to concrete bases, then growing them in tanks at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory in Ruskin and in a lab in the Keys. The first batch of 160-cookie-sized coral fragments were planted on a damaged reef in the Keys in December. Divers will return this spring or in early summer to see if the transplants are healthy and growing. The effort is part of a complicated experiment to find a new way to save Florida's vast coral reefs which have been damaged by shipwrecks, pollution and climate change. (Contact: Craig Watson, 813-671-5230 ext. 107, caw@ifas.ufl.edu)

Duct Manufacturer Expands in Tampa Bay

JP Lamborn Co., a Fresno, California flexible air duct manufacturer, announced it will be locating a new 50,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Lakeland with an estimated \$1.5 million capital investment. The light manufacturing facility, which is being established to better serve the central Florida market, will create 40 – 50 jobs. More information about JP Lamborn is available on their Web site - www.jpflex.com. (Contact: John Lamborn, 559-650-2120)

Pinellas County announces 240-acre site available

Toytown, a 240-acre redevelopment site in the Tampa Bay region, is being offered through a Request for Negotiation (RFN) process by Pinellas County's Economic Development Authority. The site is bordered by I-275, allowing easy interstate access for the region's 3.8 million residents and nearly 20 million annual visitors. Toytown is within the Gateway employment district, home to the headquarters of Raymond James Financial, Home Shopping Network and Jabil Circuit. Prospective respondents should visit www.pced.org/toytown to download further details and read the entire Request for Negotiation for statement of interest requirements. The deadline for submittals is July 27, 2007 at 3:00 pm. (Contact: Stacey Swank, 727-464-7425, sswank@co.pinellas.fl.us)

Tampa Bay Communities Named Among Best for Young People

The Tampa Bay communities of St. Petersburg and Manatee County were named among the "100 Best Communities for Young People" by America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth. This is the second year in a row the two communities were selected for the honor. The "100 Best" winners were chosen based on the communities' efforts to fulfill five essential promises critical to the well-being of young people: caring adults who are actively involved in their lives; safe places in which to learn and grow; a healthy start toward adulthood; an effective education that builds marketable skills; and opportunities to help others. Founded by retired General Colin Powell, America's Promise is a broad-based alliance whose members work together to ensure the well-being of children and youth. More information at www.americaspromise.org. (Contact: Nancy Engel, Manatee County EDC, 941-748-4842 or Dave Goodwin, City of St. Petersburg, 727-893-7868)

FHTCC Named Finalist for Economic Development Leadership Award

The Florida High Tech Corridor Council (FHTCC) has been chosen as a finalist for the prestigious CoreNet Global Economic Development Leadership Award for its unique approach to high tech economic development. One of six finalists in the innovation award category, FHTCC was selected on the basis of best practices, leadership and innovation in economic development. (Contact: Randy Berridge, FHTCC, 407-562-1910, randy.berridge@floridahightech.com)

Reality Check Tampa Bay Draws National Speaker

John Fregonese, a principal with Fregonese Calthorpe & Associates, will deliver the luncheon keynote at the Reality Check Tampa Bay event on May 18, 2007 at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa. A regional planner with over 30 years experience, Fregonese has led some of the most significant regional plans in recent decades such as Portland's Region's 2040, Envision Utah, Chicago Metropolis 2020, Southern California Compass, and Louisiana Speaks. Reality Check is a one-day regional visioning exercise designed to discuss, analyze and develop alternative growth scenarios for the rapidly growing Tampa Bay region through 2050. Reality Check Tampa Bay is a partnership of The Urban Land Institute, Tampa Bay Partnership Regional Research and Education Foundation Vision21, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Tampa Bay Estuary Program and Tampa

Bay Regional Planning Council. Register for the Reality Check Tampa Bay luncheon event online at www.RealityCheckTampaBay.org. (Contact: Amy Maguire, 727-539-7790, amy@realitychecktampabay.org)

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