

“An unmatched learning opportunity ... that couldn’t be engineered in a lab or learned from a book.” – *A graduate researcher*



Welcome

This ninth edition of florida.HIGH.TECH comes at a time when this unique initiative of three great American research universities is increasingly being recognized as a model for harnessing the power of higher education to create economic opportunity.

At its annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, in October 2009, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) presented the top award for Economic Development Partnerships with Higher Education to the Florida High Tech Corridor Council (FHTCC) for its Matching Grants Research Program and Workforce Development efforts.


While that high praise is sincerely appreciated, equally meaningful are the comments of a young graduate researcher at the University of South Florida, Nathan Schwagler in the Master of Science in Entrepreneurship in Applied Technologies program. He said:

“Financial support from FHTCC, and the intellectual support of Drs. Michael Fountain and Balaji Padmanabhan, created an unmatched learning opportunity that truly complemented my academic coursework. The high-level talent from both academia and industry created a team-based, experiential, and cross-disciplinary scenario that simply couldn’t be engineered in a lab or learned from a book.”

In this issue you can read about the fascinating history of our now globally recognized Matching Grants Research Program, as well as stories about how regional cooperation will lead to future opportunities for our student researchers who are one of the world’s most potent human resource assets and Florida’s efforts to pave the way for start-up and second-stage ventures to become powerful economic partners.

And, one of our most popular features – “Faces of Technology” – has been expanded this year and reflects growing interest in the Corridor Council’s online presence. If you have not become one of our “Facebook Fans,” now is the time because by visiting us at www.facebook.com/floridahightech you’ll get to meet the minds behind what is happening all across this exciting region. Their video interviews are truly fascinating.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Florida High Tech Corridor ... a growing hub of technology industry, employment and research.

Best regards,

Randy Berridge
President
Florida High Tech Corridor Council