

TEXTURE

ORLANDO'S TECHNOLOGY LANDSCAPE

ECONOMIC GARDENING

How Central Florida is Sprouting New Business

LIGHT THE WAY

Orlando as a Leader in Solar Energy

ROCK STARS

Top Docs Rock O-Town



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DEVELOPMENT
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Support GROUP

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THE FLORIDA HIGH TECH CORRIDOR COUNCIL OFFERS A NETWORK OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT HELP HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES.

» Access to the research minds of some of America's great academic experts and their graduate students is driving an applied research explosion in Florida that is solving problems for companies of all sizes and creating downstream value in the form of contracts, patents, jobs and capital investment for a region that is home to 70 percent of the state's high tech employment.



Take a tour of FHTCC with its online virtual visit program.

includes the University of Florida (UF), 14 community colleges and nearly two dozen economic development organizations across a 23-county corridor within the central portion of Florida.

With a mission to attract, retain and grow high-tech industry and to develop the workforce to support it, the Council has developed or supported a wide variety of programs that have assisted hundreds of companies across the Corridor, ranging from large global giants to small incubator start-ups.

ACCESS TO RESEARCH

Over the last 12 years, more than 300 companies have worked with researchers at UCF, USF and UF on more than 900 applied research projects ranging from agritechology to solar energy. The groundbreaking research that has resulted from these partnerships has led to the development of innovative products, treatments and research methods that have enhanced the lives of people across the globe.

One example of the variety of research being funded through the

Its Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) is just one of the threads in a fabric that the Florida High Tech Corridor Council (FHTCC) has been developing for more than a dozen years to weave together the pieces of a high-tech blanket for the region, helping provide Central Florida's high-tech and innovation sectors with much needed

comfort and support as they look to grow and flourish.

Created in 1996 when the Florida Legislature empowered the University of Central Florida (UCF) in Orlando and the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa to partner in a unique economic development initiative, FHTCC has now grown into a powerful alliance that also

Council's matching grants program is a project currently underway at UCF that is developing a new way for doctors to virtually "see" inside a patient's body and visualize the movements of an internal organ in real time.

Doctors at M.D. Anderson Center Orlando have partnered with simulation experts at UCF to help physicians better administer radiation treatment to lung tumors. Created by Drs. Jannick Rolland and Anand Santhanam, both UCF researchers, the technology uses a head-mounted display that projects a 3-D lung model on goggles designed to give the experience of seeing through a patient's chest. That model is an expanding and contracting lung specific to the patient.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Over the years, FHTCC has invested in a multitude of programs designed to assist in workforce development across the region through support for education and workforce initiatives.

The Council has provided financial support for an initiative to develop 2+2 Associate Degree programs designed to ensure that students completing the first two years of a college career at the community college level, have a program available to help them achieve a bachelor's degree through collaboration between the community colleges and research universities. Currently, there are 2+2 Associate Degree programs available in the technology sectors of micro-electronic manufacturing; biotechnology; modeling, simulation and training; wireless technologies; digital media; photonics; and information technology security. In addition, the Council has helped support a SpaceTec Certified Aerospace Technician program and a Manufacturing Center of Excellence certificate program.

Another successful Council initiative is the outreach to teachers and their students in public school systems through the techPATH program, a partnership with educators throughout the 23-county region. techCAMP, the program's signature offering, has engaged more than 2,000 teachers, and through them reached hundreds of thousands of stu-

dents through nearly 50 techCAMPs held across the Corridor.

In addition, the Council has hosted two Career Expos, which provide an opportunity for companies across the region looking for technology workers to meet face-to-face with career center directors from some of the leading colleges and universities in the country.

CREATING PARTNERSHIPS AND PROMOTING THE REGION

Through its unofficial mantra of "leave your egos and your logos at the door," FHTCC has been able to bring together business, economic development, workforce and educational leaders from across the Corridor with the single goal of working together to enhance and grow high-tech industries within the 23-county region.



Under the guidance of FHTCC President Randy Berridge, the Council is always looking for opportunities to partner on initiatives that will enhance the Corridor, either through the addition or expansion of a high-tech company, recognition of the Corridor as a place where high-tech innovation thrives, or promotion of some of the activities and economic tools available within the Corridor.

The Council has helped spearhead

flvec.com, which is a Virtual Entrepreneurial Center designed to be a one-stop shop where new and expanding businesses can find the information they need on everything from potential vendors to permitting regulations. FHTCC also developed a regional Virtual Visit (www.VisitTheCorridor.com) that allows site selectors from across the globe to learn about the great high-tech amenities available within the region without the expense of making an in-person visit.

Recognizing the value of social networks in the world of high tech and innovation, the Council recently initiated a YouTube channel (www.floridahightech.com/resources/facesoftechnology.html) with videos featuring some of the high-tech innovators in the Corridor. FHTCC is also looking at the possibility of hosting an interactive social network that would allow researchers and

entrepreneurs from across the region to connect online to discuss subjects of interest.

But even in this electronic age, the Council also recognizes the value of creating relationships through personal contact. A supporter of the Tampa Bay Technology Forum, which brings technology leaders from the Tampa Bay area together for regular social and professional functions,

since its inception, FHTCC is currently working with leaders within the Metro Orlando area to re-engage the Central Florida Technology Forum. The goal is to provide technology companies from the Metro Orlando area with regular opportunities to engage in networking and relationship building that fosters the spirit of collaboration that has helped FHTCC become such an important part of the high-tech fabric of Central Florida.

