AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES:
FLORIDA’S IN THE RIGHT LANE
Inspire the World to Play

We are Electronic Arts! We are a collective of artists, engineers, designers and more who are constantly honing our respective expertise as we create extraordinary interactive entertainment through pioneering technology and a culture of innovation. We believe “play” is universal and eternal, and that it helps us learn, create, explore, and connect. We live to play!

As part of the landscape in Central Florida for over 23 years, we are proud of what we have accomplished and excited by what we will tackle next. Join us in our mission to inspire the world to play!

www.careers.ea.com
inside.fHT

04 Publisher’s Letter  Ed Schons

05 Autonomous Vehicles: Florida’s in the Right Lane  Innovation in Transportation from The Corridor

10 Science Behind the Brew  Scientists Explore a New Challenge

15 Skills that Land Jobs  Corridor Universities Prepare Students for the Workforce

19 Faces of Technology  Read About 12 Corridor Innovators in Profiles Throughout this Magazine

27 University Research  Profiles of Research Collaborations Between Corridor Universities and High Tech Companies
Publisher's Letter
Ed Schons

Autonomous Vehicles: Florida's in the Right Lane
Innovation in Transportation from The Corridor

Science Behind the Brew
Scientists Explore a New Challenge

Skills that Land Jobs
Corridor Universities Prepare Students for the Workforce

Faces of Technology
Read About 12 Corridor Innovators in Profiles Throughout this Magazine

University Research
Profiles of Research Collaborations Between Corridor Universities and High Tech Companies

Industry Statistics
Data on the Largest High Tech Sectors in the Region

Trade Organizations
Regional Associations that Unite High Tech Industry

Annual Report
Summary of the Florida High Tech Corridor Council's Yearly Activities

Read and React
Share your thoughts with us on social media.

@floridaHighTech    fb.com/FloridaHighTech    youtube.com/facesoftechnology

Alachua County Department of Growth Management
352.334.5240 | https://growth-management.alachuacounty.us

Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation
941.831.0800 | www.bradentonareaedc.com

Central Florida Development Council Inc.
407.837.4414 | www.cf2c.org

City of Cocoa
321.435.8800 | www.cocoafl.org

City of Deltona
386.878.8100 | www.deltonafl.gov

City of St. Petersburg Economic Development
727.893.7100 | www.stpete.org/economicdevelopment/

Dade County Economic Development Council
305.374.2500 | www.miami.com

Economic Development Authority for Citrus County
352.795.2000 | www.edacitrus.com

Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast
321.638.2000 | www.spacecoastedc.org

Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County
941.309.1200 | www.edcsarasotacounty.com

Enterprise Florida
407.956.5600 | www.enterpriseflorida.com

Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity
386.313.4071 | www.flaglercountyedc.com

Florida Economic Development Council
850.601.0870 | www.fedconline.org

Gainesville Council for Economic Outreach
352.378.3700 | www.gainesvillechamber.com/economic-development/

Haines City Economic Development Council
863.422.2525 | www.hainescityedc.com

Hardin County Chamber of Commerce
983.773.6667 | www.hardinoro.com

Hernando County Office of Economic Development
352.540.6400 | www.hernandobusiness.com

Highlands County Economic Development Commission
863.422.6504 | www.highlandsedc.com

Hillsborough County Economic Development Department

Lake County Office of Economic Development
352.742.3518 | www.lakefloridaedc.com

Lake County Economic Development Council
352.742.3518 | www.lakefloridaedc.com

Orange County Economic Partnership
407.422.7150 | www.orangepd.com

Nature Coast Business Development Council of Levy County
352.493.2000 | www.naturecoast.org

Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership

Okeechobee County Economic Development Department
407.742.4200 | www.greaterokeechobee.com

Pasco Economic Development Council
888.607.2706 | www.pascoedc.com

Putnam County Economic Development
727.486.9392 | www.putnam.org

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce
352.358.1503 | www.putnamchamber.com

Seminole County Economic Development

Sumter County Economic Development
352.386.2400 | www.sumterbusiness.com

Tampa Bay Partnership
813.218.3300 | www.tampabay.org

Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation
813.218.3300 | www.tampaben.org

Team Volusia Economic Development Corporation
386.265.6332 | www.teamvolusiaedc.com

Volusia County Economic Development
386.265.3861 | www.volusiaedc.com

floridaHIGHTECH.com | 3
The Florida High Tech Corridor is an agent for change, as you will see throughout this magazine.

In this publication, you’ll receive insight into the minds of scientists in high tech industry, the development of commercially applicable technology emerging from the laboratories of the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida, plus peer into the lives of nine people pushing boundaries around the region.

Autonomous vehicles are making their way onto our streets, so in our cover story we’re sharing the impact transportation scientists foresee in The Corridor. Alongside the future of transportation, you’ll read about scientists who are applying their knowledge to fermented beverages and how partners around the region are preparing students for the workforce.

The dedication and contributions that I have seen from around The Corridor make me proud to lead this organization. I look forward to what the future holds. Thank you for your support of our 23-county region and please enjoy floridahightech.com/2018.

Sincerely,

Ed Schons
President, Florida High Tech Corridor Council
AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

FLORIDA’S IN THE RIGHT LANE

Autonomous vehicles are hitting the street across the 23-county Corridor as leaders embrace the technology and plow through hurdles on the long road ahead to become a ‘crash-free’ society.

Transportation organizations, private companies and researchers at local universities are forging ahead in developing and implementing the most anticipated transportation technology since the flying cars of Orbit City seemed reasonable from 1962’s animated sitcom, The Jetsons.
or one, Orlando’s Luminar is taking grand steps to shape the industry. The technology improves upon the already available use of LiDAR to help close the gap on current accidents from lacking technology.

LiDAR is a sensor using lasers to measure distance and creates a 3-D view of the environment. LiDAR is already in use by the industry, however, Luminar’s breakthrough improvement delivers 50 times better resolution and 10 times longer range … thereby increasing reaction time, according to the company. At least one major auto manufacturer agrees as the Luminar sensor is being used in the Toyota Research Institute’s latest self-driving test vehicle.

“We moved swiftly and early to adopt the Luminar platform into our fleet, and as a result we’re rapidly advancing our program,” said James Kuffner, chief technology officer, Toyota Research Institute. “The level of data fidelity and range is unlike anything we’ve seen and is essential to be able to develop and deliver the most advanced automated driving systems.”

Research continues in Gainesville as the University of Florida (UF) and its Transportation Institute (UFTI), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the City of Gainesville partner to create a “smart testbed” on the UF campus and surrounding highway network.

The project, called I-STREET, tests technology to improve safety and mobility. This is not a closed course facility, but one on busy streets with regular traffic. Proper connectivity between infrastructure, vehicles and people is essential for success.

Lily Elefteriadou, Ph.D., is central to this work. She is director of UFTI and interim department chair of Industrial and Systems Engineering at UF. Other research includes an autonomous vehicle named the NaviGATOR, and the development of sensors for the City’s buses to alert passengers with bicycles if bus bike racks are filled before waiting to find that out themselves.

“There are several components of autonomous vehicles that don’t require the driver to pay attention, but we’re definitely not at the point where the driver can completely give up control,” said Elefteriadou. “The driver still needs to be aware. I think we are making slow and incremental steps to get there, and it’s a very promising area.”

The challenge comes in urban transportation. Highway driving has already proven to be an easier beast to tackle because many organizations like MetroPlan Orlando are trying to wrap our arms, our minds, around the whole phenomena of autonomous vehicles. We are planning for something that we really don’t understand.”

Historically, MetroPlan Orlando has been able to rely on...
land-use data, vehicle miles traveled, vehicle trips and population growth to determine what the future will look like. Autonomous vehicles disrupt that picture. That is not to say steps aren’t being taken to clarify the vision, including scenario planning.­

Here are some scenarios running through Hill’s mind:

Potential scenario 1:
Society becomes more dependent on Uber and Lyft-like companies and many may not own a car, but use autonomous vehicle services for transportation.

Potential scenario 2:
I own an autonomous vehicle and it serves me and my family, and I allow it to serve others while I don’t need it, perhaps while I’m at work.

To better understand the likely use of autonomous vehicles, MetroPlan Orlando in partnership with the University of Central Florida (UCF) and FDOT is participating in a six-year grant: Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technology Deployment.

The grant will allow for testing of smart city transportation technology to provide recommendations for possible national models. It includes a pedestrian and bicycle collision avoidance system, traffic signal technology, trip planning technology, a sophisticated database for collected data, and autonomous and connected vehicles. All of this will occur in or around the UCF area in East Orlando.

While testing the technology is crucial, so is evaluating the public’s reaction, notes UF’s Elefteriadou. At the other end of The Corridor in Tampa Bay, reactions include some hesitations about a driverless car as noted by Melanie Roux, driver/trainer for HART (Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority) HyperLINK. The rideshare program helps connect people to and from the Tampa Bay area’s transit system.

Roux hears “I want a driver” when users of HART HyperLINK find out a Tesla is included in the fleet and could be on its way to pick them up, assuming the car drives itself. “They’re afraid to let the car drive them,” she said. “Once they see the car is safe, I think they will come around.”

To be clear, there is always a driver answering the call for HART HyperLINK. While the four Teslas in the fleet could be self-driving, the organization does not activate the feature. Vans without connectivity features also round out the fleet for the program.

Furthermore, HART plans to deploy an autonomous shuttle to connect a local transit center to nearby offices and residences in Downtown Tampa.

“Other states are just dipping their toe into the water. I have been working in this field for almost 30 years and at this moment the public’s imagination is completely captured by what is happening in transportation,” said Robert Bertini, Ph.D., CUTR director and USF professor of civil and environmental engineering. “This is an incredible opportunity … we shouldn’t miss this opportunity to make something exciting happen.”

Bertini emphasizes the need to have an open mind and think of ways to take advantage of technological advancements to create communities where people want to live, work and play. And, in creating those opportunities, ensuring it’s done in an efficient and equitable manner to benefit all people.

CUTR is not only a center for research, but one for education as well. Bertini knows there is a need for education surrounding these ideas for transportation. More tools to share the realities of autonomous vehicles will help the public better understand the goal of this work. And the goal is safety — the number one priority in transportation.

“When you look at the core vision of the Florida Department of Transportation, at the very top of the list is safety,” said David Gwynn, district secretary of transportation, FDOT District 7. “You’ve heard a lot in recent years about technology causing problems with safety … with distracted driving and other things, but this is the same thing that can deliver us toward a safer environment and reduce fatalities and injuries.”

As safety guides a common interest across the state, the technology requires extensive collaboration among varied fields, including occupational therapy, computer science and civil engineering, plus local and statewide partners. UF’s Elefteriadou sees the strength of FDOT alongside UF’s interdisciplinary approach at the transportation institute and the City of Gainesville’s collaborative mindset as assets for innovation for transportation.

As such, Elefteriadou credits the City as one that is forward-looking and willing to try new technology in the community. To continue development, she stresses a need for industry partners for further collaboration. The multi-year project seeks technology that is ready or almost ready for deployment to evaluate in the testbed. Joint development of technology, proof of concept and other opportunities for companies doing research are waiting in The Corridor.
Brewing, the making of alcoholic malt beverages by steeping, boiling and fermenting malt and hops, is a practice generally attributed to the hospitality, food and beverage industries. However, brewing is a science. And scientists are rushing to experiment.
hen people think about science, they tend to think about chemistry or biology," said Dr. Ken Caswell, chemistry and environmental science instructor at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee (USFSM). "It’s important to remember that science is the process of investigation to establish evidence-based information through experimentation; it underlies everything we do, from brushing our teeth or making a sandwich to simply driving down the road." Or, apparently, brewing a tasty adult beverage.

Investigation and experimentation are at the core of USFSM’s elective beverage courses. Established in spring 2015, these courses introduce the science underlying aspects of beer, its brewing process and pairings with food. The Introduction to Beer Science and Chemistry and Microbiology of Beer courses focus on hospitality and science, respectively, but they are proudly interdisciplinary.

"Nowadays, students have incredibly high tech devices with more information at their fingertips than any other point in history," said Caswell. "We tap into that by creating learning environments that provide opportunities for students to learn about topics that are contextually interesting to them. We approach these courses as experiential learning opportunities, as opposed to putting up four white walls."

Local industry leaders including Big Top, Darwin Brewing, Green Bench Brewing, Cigar City Brewing, Coppertail Brewing, Calusa Brewing, Motorworks Brewing and Florida Worldwide Citrus generously donate their time, resources, facilities and advice to enrich the beer science courses by providing students with real-world context for their studies and research outside of the classroom.

With a diverse range of majors represented in both courses, Caswell does not expect to create a wave of brew masters. Rather, his goal is to inspire students to pursue a lifelong exploration of learning experiences that are relevant to their individual interests.
“It’s that spark,” said Caswell. “The moment they think ‘I didn’t know this existed, so there must be other really interesting things out there, as well.’”

Caswell had that effect on Erika Johnson, a former Introduction to Beer Science student, who currently works as a microbiologist at Ion Labs in Largo where she oversees quality control, probiotic enumeration, and the testing of raw materials and finished products of the labs’ dietary supplements.

“That course, mixed with my own life experience, had a major impact on me,” said Johnson. “I’ve always loved beer, but I left that course with such a greater understanding and appreciation for what goes into producing it.”

Throughout the course, students are required to keep a “brewer’s lab notebook,” used to track progress and log notes on what they find interesting.

“I still keep a notebook to this day,” said Johnson. “I live in consistent pursuit of learning new things on a variety of topics; I use that book to take notes that I can draw back to later.”

Johnson’s interest in microbiology was sparked at a young age. Her father, also a microbiologist, allowed her to help in his lab and supported her complex science fair projects.

“Ultimately, I chose microbiology because I was really interested in working in the field of brewing,” said Johnson. “My dad works with breweries on the side; after talking with him, I made the connection that I could use my microbiology degree to work with brewing in some capacity.”

However, as Johnson was approaching graduation, she discovered that finding work in a lab as an undergraduate is not easy. “It’s extremely competitive,” said Johnson. “I tried so many times, wrote all of the right emails, but kept striking out.”

Two weeks before her final semester, in fall 2016, Johnson received an email about the Introduction to Beer Science course and signed up for the course immediately.

“That course was exactly what I was looking for. I saw it as the perfect way to wrap up my educational career,” said Johnson.

While a variety of majors were represented by students enrolled in the course, Johnson’s background in science was apparent in the writing style of her investigative reports which was required at the beginning of class to prepare students for the topic of the day. Caswell, taking note of Johnson’s track and points of interest, approached her early in the semester with a proposal.

“He came up to me and simply said ‘I’m going to make
some calls and get you set up with an internship,” Johnson recalls. “I was shocked. After having doors closed for so long, this opportunity was just incredible.”

She went on to work with the lab team at Coppertail Brewing Co., where, under the supervision of Lab Technician Sam Swartz, she learned about quality control processes required to ensure that production is safe and consistent.

While Johnson may be currently working in a more “mainstream” field of microbiology, her longstanding passion for beer and brewing has stuck with her. “I have a really comprehensive collection of brewing books, which has only grown since I finished the course,” said Johnson.

On Florida’s other coast, Chris Jojola, a mechanical test engineer at Kennedy Space Center, began homebrewing in 2006.

“I always had an interest in science and biology,” said Jojola. “When I learned about how you could control the variables of the beer and essentially make whatever you want, I jumped in and never looked back.”

When he’s not at work supporting the handling, testing and transportation of rockets and rocket motors, Jojola devotes his time to the Space Coast Associates for the Advancement of Zymurgy (SAAZ). Zymurgy is an applied science in the biochemical process of fermentation and its uses. As the club’s secretary and membership coordinator, Jojola works to further SAAZ’s mission of educating and promoting homebrewing and craft beers. The homebrew club brings its nearly 80 active members together through meetings, intracub “brew challenges,” workshops and competitions throughout Brevard County. The club’s annual brewing competition, Commander SAAZ, is the largest homebrewing competition in the state, drawing close to 600 entries statewide.

“We have many new members who have never brewed before,” said Jojola. “They come to us for advice on their first batch or to brew with one of our more experienced members, to learn more about the process.”

Jojola says that the ability to network and pick the brains of other enthusiasts is one of the greatest benefits of SAAZ membership.

“It’s really special to be able to meet like-minded people,” said Jojola. “Back when I first started homebrewing, we didn’t have big Facebook groups, so it was more difficult to meet people. Now you can go out and find just about anyone.”

As the club continues to grow, welcoming new members in Brevard County, Jojola wants to clear up a common misconception of homebrewing – that the process is difficult or unapproachable.

“You can really make brewing as simple or as complicated as you want,” said Jojola. “Really, it’s like cooking or baking bread. There is a process to follow, but it’s not incredibly difficult.”

Eric Dreyer holds a longtime passion for homebrewing – he began in 2007 and crafted more than 200 batches in the following eight years.

“Honestly, I started because I thought I could make cheap beer at home,” said Dreyer. “But, as I got into it, the process itself really intrigued me. I was taking a food microbiology class at the time, so it provided really interesting real-world context.”

After completing his B.S. and M.S. in Food Science at the University of Florida (UF), specializing in sensory evaluation of foods and beverages, Dreyer went on to work as a biological scientist for the university, conducting sensory analysis research.

“I really enjoyed my time at UF,” said Dreyer. “I worked with a lot of taste testing and texture analysis; the work I did had close ties to the beverage industry, a field that I’ve always been interested in.”

Dreyer brought his passion for brewing from home to the workplace in 2014, when he joined First Magnitude Brewing as their lead brewer, helping the Gainesville brewery and tap room open its doors to the public.

“I had always been excited about brewing, and I was ready for a sort of ‘lane change’ in my career,” said Dreyer. “It wasn’t a huge jump – the roles themselves are clearly different, but they are both rooted in food science.”

Dreyer oversees the production of First Magnitude’s brews – from ingredient sourcing to placing the final product on the shelf, and everything in between. He also oversees the installation and implementation of new production equipment, lab instruments and processes.

“We have a great team and a fantastic environment at First Magnitude,” said Dreyer. “We really have a lot of fun working together.”

And, as Dreyer will tell you, it’s hard to beat the feeling of being able to taste the fruit of your labor.

“Getting to see your hard work come to fruition in the form of a tangible object is truly incredible,” said Dreyer. “Having your beer in your hand and seeing others enjoy it, too … I think those are the ultimate goals for every brewer.”
Florida’s High Tech Corridor is not immune to what some have suggested is a disconnect between education and career readiness, but the region’s three universities – the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF) – are working to develop a stronger workforce for more than 21,000 technology companies throughout the region.
Since 2012, UF has strengthened its degree programs through the curriculum of its Innovation Academy, a program emphasizing 21st-century skillsets: interdisciplinary collaboration, media literacy, global awareness, critical problem-solving and change-making leadership, among others.

According to Innovation Academy’s academic coordinator, Amy Bucciarelli, these skills are desired by employers, but often lacking in college graduates. However, graduates from the program know better. Innovation Academy students earn a minor in innovation through the completion of six courses, with topics including “Creative Thinking,” “Entrepreneurship,” “Leadership” and “Ethics.”

“With a minor in innovation, you’ve been practicing some of the skills that employers want to see since your very first course during your freshman year,” said Bucciarelli.

Among the program’s graduates is David Nassau, ’16, who now serves as product marketing manager at Intel in the San Francisco Bay Area.

“Not only was the curriculum of [Innovation Academy] beneficial, the connections in the Gainesville entrepreneurial community became one of the most valuable assets to me as an ambitious student looking for opportunities,” explained Nassau. “Today, I am a proud alumnus who walks around the office with an old [Innovation Academy] brochure on my desk to remind myself to continue on this exciting path.”

Across the Corridor region, electrical engineering students at USF experience the positive impacts of a more flexible academic schedule that aligns with their career goals. The Curriculum Innovation Committee, led by electrical engineering professor, Chris Ferekides, Ph.D., introduced a new curriculum in 2017 that encourages students to study classes in “sub-areas” of electrical engineering. It challenges them to become more well-rounded and better prepared to enter a variety of industries post-graduation.

“Because they have to customize their curriculum, students are fully engaged from day one and starting to think about their plans, and how to make career-related choices early on,” said Ferekides. “We are also including a ‘professional component’ in our new curriculum that includes content weaved throughout the middle two years to address important career skills, such as teamwork, communication, leadership and ethics. Unlike a traditional course that focuses only on technical content, this includes activities where students can engage in self-directed projects, community outreach, internships, student organizations … and many activities we have yet to think about.”

USF electrical engineering graduate, Mary Simpson, ’16, started a job at LGS Innovations in Tampa just one week after graduation.

“I definitely contribute my quick hiring from the classes that I took that related to my career goal and the application of real-world problems in class,” said Simpson. “USF’s curriculum also incorporated technologies and software that companies are currently using. This gave me the capability to be quickly brought onto current projects.”

Along with the flexibility to choose classes based on career interests, USF’s electrical engineering
program will soon offer other initiatives geared toward complementing students’ technical proficiency. Among them, a series of courses called “Professional Formation of Engineers” launching in 2018 will center on the soft skills sought after by employers. Through hands-on learning, the courses will provide students opportunities to become ‘certified’ in areas such as ethics, leadership and communications.

In Orlando, UCF has implemented career-oriented programs to better prepare next-generation engineers with essential soft skills. UCF’s Engineering Leadership and Innovation Institute (eli^2) was developed in 2009 to provide more opportunities for students in the College of Engineering and Computer Science to master skills not emphasized in their degree program, such as public speaking and thinking on a global scale.

According to eli^2 Director Tim Kotnour, Ph.D., “the mission is to help students discover their burning desire and confidence to deliver world-changing solutions.”

eli^2 is open to students at all levels in their studies, from undergraduate college students to business executives.

“For the undergraduate engineering and computer science student, we focus on helping them become leaders. We focus on helping them be technically sound, creative, innovative, collaborative and accountable, as well as the owner of their academic career and the owner of a well-balanced life,” said Kotnour.

Working professionals can look forward to building confidence and skills to lead teams that deliver innovative solutions. Executives can expect a forum to share lessons learned and best practices in leading an organization.

For JC Perez, eli^2 was the bridge that connected his technical engineering education with leadership development, offering him direct access to high-profile mentors who could provide industry insight and career advice. It opened the door to networking and professional development opportunities, which catapulted him into a successful career as project manager for Belcan Engineering Group in Palm Beach Gardens – an engineering firm that provides solutions for various industries, from aerospace to cybersecurity.

“eli^2 developed my skills as an engineer and as a leader, allowing me to obtain a shorter learning curve within my position and creating a foundation of skills – creation, innovation, collaboration and accountability – valuable to the company,” Perez said.

The rise in popularity of programs like eli^2 at UCF and other universities is having a positive effect not only for students, but also for employers. Danielle Frank, human resources director for global security and aerospace leader, Lockheed Martin, has seen an influx of prime candidates in recent years. Her team focuses on hiring students who are not just technically proficient, but have the communication skills needed to support the research, development and operation of Lockheed Martin’s advanced technology systems.

“The quality of the entry-level technical workforce we’re seeing is impressive – high-caliber curriculum and students, many of which bring internship experience,” said Frank. “We are also seeing incredible eagerness to take on difficult challenges; the ability to collaborate and work as part of a team, including strong communication skills, is critical to that process.”

While work continues to prepare workforce-ready graduates, Corridor universities are stepping up to the challenge.
innovative breakthroughs in science, medicine, aerospace and other industries are happening within the central part of Florida and the following nine people share their stories of being on the action. These nine individuals have overcome challenges and helped advance high technology through a passion for their work. Learn more about the unique stories that support this growing high tech region at facesoftechnology.com.
Amanda Stramer, process development associate scientist with Iovance Biotherapeutics, always wanted to pursue a career in medical science. A volunteer role in college paved the way for her to pursue her passion in a lab environment. While volunteering at a nearby hospital, Amanda received a firsthand account of the complexity of cancer and the interactions it has with the immune system. “Ever since then I’ve always wanted to join the fight against cancer,” she noted.

Amanda enjoys the sense of accomplishment when she and the team solve a challenging process development question. “When you work in the biotech industry, you are the front lines for new technology. Whenever a product is improved, the community is impacted in a positive way. And that’s what gets me to wake up in the morning and go to work.”

The technology that she contributes to daily is unique in that it delivers highly potent and personalized immune-oncology therapies against aggressive solid tumors through a product called Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TIL). It’s not a one-size-fits-all therapy. Every treatment is specifically meant for the patient that is infused.

During her studies in undergraduate school, Amanda couldn’t recall a time when educators talked about the biotech industry, let alone process development. “I didn’t know that process development existed,” she pointed out. “Process development is the science of enhancing the performance of manufacturing goods. We’re responsible for identifying and developing new processes, studying process parameters and controls, and ensuring standardization within manufacturing processes to receive reproducible results.”

Originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, Amanda loves the warmer climate here in Florida and believes “it’s a great spot for us as a company.” She added, “we were at one point a small company and we’ve grown, but I think that’s what makes it exciting. I expect other biotech companies within the Florida High Tech Corridor to also experience the same trend.”
As the aviation industry continues to grow and evolve, so do the needs of all components on the aircraft, including lights.

As lead industrial designer at AVEO Engineering, the global aviation lighting leader with roots in Flagler County, Christoph Ziegler enjoys the challenge of designing lighting solutions for even the tiniest of places.

Whether that’s inside the cockpit or on the exterior of an aircraft, Christoph’s favorite part of the job is being presented a problem and trying to figure out a solution.

Born in Germany, Christoph relocated to the U.S. with his family at 15. He earned a B.A. in Industrial Design from the Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale before joining the AVEO Engineering team.

“We’re pushing the envelope on what can be achieved in such tiny places … when it comes to where we’re mounting these lights. At times there are millimeters to play with and other companies can’t do it,” he noted, referring to the old industry standard in which manufacturers would have to find a way to outfit a plane with stock lighting, as opposed to finding a newer, often custom, solution.

The process to create the lighting products starts when Christoph is contacted by companies that are looking for a replacement solution or a new product. Christoph then works hand-in-hand with mechanical engineers, electrical engineers and optical engineers for a prototype.

As the aircraft industry grows, AVEO Engineering’s innovative designs will continue to spark interest in those seeking modern technologies and state-of-the-art designs.

dr. deepika SINGH

Co-Founder and President
Sinmat | www.sinmat.com

Dr. Deepika Singh, co-founder and president of Sinmat, was always fascinated by science and scientific discovery. As the leader of a global manufacturer, she is still fascinated by opportunities to apply scientific principles to solve new challenges.

Deepika has an extensive background in materials engineering and creative ideas. Together with her husband, Rajiv Singh, who is a materials science and engineering professor at the University of Florida and a world-renowned expert in the field of chemical mechanical polishing, the power couple founded Sinmat, which develops chemical mechanical polishing solutions used in the chip manufacturing industry.

Deepika shared that “it brings me great joy when I can help our team develop unique products which provide immense value to our customers.”

The company is currently distributing products in the United States, Germany, China, Japan, Korea and other countries around the world. While Sinmat is now a global brand, she’s proud of the company’s Gainesville roots, having started in the Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center.

“Being longtime residents, we decided to incorporate Sinmat in Gainesville. Why not make our own Silicon Valley right here?” Deepika shared with the Business Report of North Central Florida.

Today, the company uses local freight companies to transport its products worldwide and has recently expanded its operations to a 22,000-square-foot, three-acre manufacturing facility in Gainesville where it hopes to increase its workforce by hiring local graduates.

Sinmat holds more than 35 patents and four prestigious R&D 100 Awards. Deepika was also recognized by President Obama at a White House press conference for the work Sinmat is doing as one of the fastest-growing companies in the clean energy sector.
Living in Johannesburg at 8 years old, Greg Ross-Munro, CEO of Sourcetoad, built things with his grandfather, who taught him how to code. As a teenager, Greg and a friend built a car racing game that they sold on 5.25" floppy discs for a couple of dollars. His talent for software development blossomed from there. Five years later, Greg and his family moved to the United States, where he attended the University of South Florida. He built, and then sold, a startup software engineering firm before he was presented with a job opportunity at an investment bank. Greg’s boss at the time sensed his entrepreneurial spirit and encouraged him to start what is now Sourcetoad. Sourcetoad began as a consulting firm, but the path of the company changed into so much more when a client asked them to build a smart TV interface for their cruise ships. “For the last 3 years, we’ve been really focusing on the cruise industry. We’ve built a lot of unique software for a unique industry that has interesting challenges. It’s been a lot of fun,” Greg shared. Outside of that industry, Sourcetoad’s software framework has a variety of applications, from truck fleet management to monitoring air conditioning units across an entire school district. But the best parts of Greg’s job are focused on his team and his Florida location. “Everybody is really good at what they do. As a matter of fact, everybody is significantly better at their job than what I could do in the same position,” he said, adding, “I think the thing that [also] keeps me here, at least in the Tampa Bay area, is because it’s a really beautiful place to live.”

---

derrick SINES
Senior Software Engineer
Riptide Software | riptidesoftware.com

Here are unique defining moments that leave a lasting imprint and have been known to drive the brightest minds to pursue a certain field of study. That was the case with Derrick Sines, senior software engineer at Riptide Software.

“There was the potential Y2K issue and also the dot com boom was going on,” Derrick said. “I was interested in computer science and computer-related fields because I anticipated that upon graduation there would be a lot of opportunities and challenges with that.”

He was of course referring to the Year 2000 bug in which coding of computers and systems was projected to cause havoc around the world. While developers were able to get ahead of the issue, it was that buzz that inspired Derrick to pursue the computer science field. Interviewing with a large defense contractor gave him an opportunity to blend that pursuit with a lifelong interest in the military. “I was impressed with the company and that’s what (ultimately) got me into the defense industry,” Derrick shared.

Having worked for Riptide Software for 11 years, Derrick has been applying his skills on Department of Defense-related projects and using some of those software skills and hardware to improve live training ranges. “Every day I come in and work with different technology stacks. I’m working with hardware one day and the next day I’m dealing with software, all the way up to user interfaces, and design and development of that, down to low-level firmware programming. I enjoy that variety and I also work with a great group of people here.”

---

Visit youtube.com/facesoftechnology to see short videos on these people and learn more about others in the region.
Lindsey Tropf, co-founder and CEO of Immersed Games, had a light bulb moment while playing World of Warcraft. She thought back to just how much she had learned simply by playing the game, including problem-solving and leadership. She envisioned the possibilities of what gaming could do when linked with useful skills and a focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

“People are looking for a way to engage this young generation of learners,” Lindsey explained. “Developing that problem-solving ability is something that a lot of people don’t realize gamers are incredibly fluent at.”

Looking back, many of the largest game developers cautioned her about the hardship of developing an educational game.

“It’s absolutely essential to fully understand your market and your end user. For us, when it comes to schools, having based our original vision off that understanding has made a big difference.”

The company’s long-term goal is to have one single online game – Tyto Online – that will be available for others to continue to build upon.

“An 8-year-old joins, creates a character and they play that character for potentially the next decade, essentially until they graduate high school or potentially even later than that.”

Immersed Games is starting to pilot Tyto Online in schools. The game has quests where students solve problems, like finding evidence to convince a scientist if a species is invasive and needs to be removed. There are also “sandboxes” for more exploratory learning experiences, like building your own ecosystem from scratch, learning about ecology as you figure out how to balance it.

Based in Gainesville, Immersed Games credits the lower cost of living, STEM-ready workforce availability, and Florida’s University System, particularly the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy video game design school at the University of Central Florida, for its early success.
Filling the talent pipeline of tomorrow starts by introducing students to concepts in science, technology, engineering and math at a young age – and making it fun. That’s where Marina Jarova comes in.

As co-founder of Integral Academy, a tutoring center in Palm Coast, she and other teachers give students in kindergarten through college the confidence to master math and excel. Instructors teach one-on-one, in groups and even via webcams. The student’s pride is apparent when a correct answer for the area of an object is confirmed – and determined without using a calculator. That pride and understanding is key to continue building from a strong foundation in math.

“I always knew I was going to be a teacher,” said Marina.

After emigrating from Russia at age 16 and earning her master’s degree with a specialty in mathematics, she worked as a math coach for Daytona State College before joining Flagler County District Schools. Working as a math coach there too, she provided teachers with strategies that they could use to teach students math skills.

The opportunity to open Integral Academy stemmed from a partnership with co-founder Galina Stingel who had a similar experience. Together, they created a place to encourage and help students succeed in math, reading, engineering, language, test preparation, music and more.

Parents and students love the center stating they enjoy coming to class. In one instance, mother and daughter are learning Russian together to better connect with a large Russian population in their community.

Integral Academy is poised to help shape the future of high tech jobs in our region. Something Marina and Galina did not set out to do, but are happy to contribute to the community and region in that way.
It all started at age 17, when Michael D. Moskal II was working alongside his father at CUBRC Inc. in Buffalo, New York. “It was kind of an internship and I remember we were preparing and managing different soil, water and fuel samples,” he shared. The project was for the Environmental Protection Agency alongside the Department of Homeland Security and allowed him a front-row seat to the team’s work utilizing chemical and biological agents to contaminate samples that contractors would then evaluate using mobile laboratories to determine if they could detect the agents in the field. “That was my first real exposure to Department of Defense type work.”

“It is my dream to be where I am today.”

Michael earned his degrees while continuing to work on defense projects throughout the country. “I have dedicated my life to defense work for the past 12 years.”

Michael’s background and research culminated in his dissertation “Adaptive Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Routing Methods for Tactical Surveillance Operations” and aligned well with the innovative research and work that high tech software company Modus Operandi contributes. Upon graduation, Michael relocated to Florida and began working for the company where he primarily focuses on missile defense and cyber situational awareness.

In addition to the work opportunity, the Space Coast appealed to him. “There are a lot of good technical jobs here. I almost consider it to be the Silicon Valley of the East Coast, especially for defense and aerospace business, given the number of good startups and tech companies breaking into the market between Orlando and Tampa … the Space Coast is also ripe with great universities and a lot of good researchers.”

Having worked with the Institute for Human & Machine Cognition, the University of Central Florida and the Florida Institute of Technology to name a few, Michael feels it’s important to be connected to academia and believes that support structure coupled with great technology breeds success.
Here’s to those who insist on inserting their great ideas.

For 45+ years, ADD+G has been a formidable presence in Florida law, specializing in intellectual property and complex business litigation. Our depth of experience allows us to provide effective legal services to a range of clients from individual entrepreneurs to national and international corporations.

So whatever your intellectual property needs may be, we have the team in place.

SQUARELY IN YOUR CORNER
How do you get major players in high tech industry to raise the stakes?

HELP THEM.

The Corridor’s internationally recognized Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) combines the brain power of researchers from the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida with the region’s private industry to leverage research and development funds and commercialize research. To date, these partnerships have resulted in an economic impact of more than $1 billion.

The Corridor views its MGRP participants as agents of change, people who are willing and able to bring change and growth to the future of advanced technology. MGRP faculty, students and industry researchers are encouraged to tackle global issues, think outside of the box and pursue research that will truly make a difference. Read on to find out how scientists from each university and local companies are making an impact.

To find out more about the individual university research programs, visit floridahightech.com/assets-why-the-corridor/research-grants.
After a quarter of a century at the helm of the University of Central Florida (UCF), I announced in October my intention to step down as president in June 2018. So, it is natural I would reflect on all that has been accomplished over more than 25 years.

UCF has become one of the nation’s largest universities and the largest in Florida. Along the way, we’ve learned that with careful planning and good management large institutions can be powerful partners for their communities, their regions and their society. Over the years, some in higher education have thought that growing big may diminish achievement, but UCF chooses to be an institution that proves big can be good … and even better.

We think big because big ideas yield big results.

Nothing proves that theory more than the Florida High Tech Corridor Council (The Corridor). Among the many big things we’ve done, I am most proud of this unique partnership of three great research universities, which has demonstrated that collaboration trumps competition. Partnerships with business and industry pay dividends, and programs that provide opportunities for our students to engage in research with faculty and corporate scientists benefit us all.

The work of The Corridor paves the way for our students to achieve meaningful careers while providing our industry partners with affordable solutions and new technologies that work better and faster.

What we hear from the corporate executives we partner with is that our “think big” attitude works for them. Just look at the impact of The Corridor’s Matching Grants Research Program. Impact studies have shown a better than $1 billion return on the $65 million investment we have made with the help of the Florida Legislature.

As I begin the next chapter of service to UCF, I know there are many more big achievements on the horizon as The Corridor reaches new heights. I know the math works.

Cordially yours,

Dr. John C. Hitt
President, University of Central Florida
Robots and artificial intelligence power increasing numbers of technologies (everything from autonomous vehicles and smart speakers) that function free from human control. However, there is at least one area of technology that still needs human interaction – surgical robotics.

While the technology shortens lengthy surgeries and helps to improve accuracy, it supports, rather than replaces, the expert doctors who perform the surgery. A Matching Grants Research Program project now seeks to further improve capabilities.

Zhihua Qu, Ph.D., professor and chair of the University of Central Florida Electrical and Engineering Department, partnered with AVRA Medical Robotics Inc. in Orlando to design a robot with a navigation system capable of performing soft tissue surgery. The technology can repair wounds, damaged skin and other surface tissue imperfections.

“Efficiency is a factor, but safety and accuracy are the most important. If a surgeon is operating on a patient and the patient moves, the surgeon will have a slower reaction time than the robot,” said Qu. “These machines can detect and anticipate motion. They can be in and out very quickly, whereas humans are limited. That’s what we are looking to improve.”

The navigation system is the heart and soul of the technology.

“This is a first step in a very complex project,” said Barry F. Cohen, AVRA Medical Robotics CEO. “AVRA would be the third medical robot company in the U.S. to receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration to do soft tissue work. It’s very complicated and requires expert work from engineers.”

Funds from The Corridor have supported two full-time graduate students, concept development and prototype.

“At the university, we want students to explore new ideas and concepts, and The Corridor’s support helps us do that,” said Qu. “This program really helps support not only commercialization and [the] state economy, but also human development. We’re teaching students to create new knowledge. Not just to learn existing knowledge.”
Telescopes in space provide vital information about our world and the universe around us. These telescopes have been very expensive to manufacture and place in space, but that may change as innovators in the region create a new generation of telescopes.

“The project is to make lightweight, thermally stable, low-cost space mirrors,” said Bill Easter, CEO of Semplastics in Oviedo. “It’s a key technology never been done before that can be manufactured faster and cheaper to be sent out into space more often.”

Easter and Kathleen Richardson, Ph.D., professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering in the College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central Florida, have been working together through the Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) to further develop the lightweight mirrors.

The mirrors would be attached to earth- and space-observing telescopes to capture electromagnetic radiation from space and could provide information on extraterrestrial life, how the universe originated, and weather and climate changes.

“Dr. Richardson and her team at the University of Central Florida have been great on consulting and helping us with many of the mechanisms related to the mirror’s manufacturer,” said Easter. “Dr. Richardson is an expert in glass and has the laboratory equipment that we don’t, so by having access to her team and resources, we’ve been able to develop this process further.”

While Richardson also sees the value in partnership, she understands The Corridor’s long-term vision as well.

“The motivation that’s behind what the MGRP funds are to be used for not only helps industries, but also helps us at the university and our efforts to develop the next generation of scientists and engineers for the workforce,” said Richardson. “I think this program is so valuable. Not all states do this and I’m a huge advocate for the long term return this program offers to our community.”
FROM IDEA TO INDUSTRY

At UCF, we turn bold ideas into big solutions. Our researchers have a fast track from the lab to the market, resulting in new inventions, intellectual property and startup businesses that drive economic growth and improve lives across Central Florida and the world. That’s why UCF is ranked by the Milken Institute alongside MIT, Stanford and Columbia as one of the nation’s top 25 technology transfer universities and is named a top 25 patent-producing U.S. public university by the National Academy of Inventors. Bright ideas brought to life create global impact. Now that’s big.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT UCF.EDU/RESEARCH.
At the University of South Florida (USF), our extraordinary faculty, staff and students continue to propel us to new heights.

We established a new record, $505.9 million, in total research expenditures during the 2017 fiscal year. The National Science Foundation ranks USF 28th in the nation for research expenditures. In addition, our faculty and researchers attracted a record $475.2 million in contracts and grants.

Those funds support cutting-edge research that is addressing critical issues across The Corridor, the state of Florida and the nation. Our scholarship and research extend across the world as well; in 2017, USF led the state with the most Student Fulbright Awards (10), and in 2016, we had the highest number of faculty Fulbright Scholars (12) of any university in the nation.

USF’s research enterprise has a significant economic impact. According to the National Institutes of Health, every $1 in research funding translates to $2.21 in local economic growth. Our fiscal year 2017 research funding alone supported more than 5,900 jobs and generated more than $1 billion in local growth.

But it’s not just the dollars attached to our research productivity that is so impressive; it is how we apply our creativity to real-world problems and finding practical solutions. USF ranks first in Florida, fifth in the nation among public universities and 11th worldwide for granted U.S. patents among all universities, according to the Intellectual Property Owners Association/NAI.

We are constantly exploring new ways to contribute to Corridor growth. As one example, we have established the Office of Corporate Partnerships as a new “front door” for businesses seeking to collaborate with the university. The office will make it easier for corporate entities to navigate the world of academic research and development, and it will expand on our strong history of partnering with leading employers to advance our economy. I encourage you to visit the office’s website (usf.edu/research-innovation/ocp/) to learn more.

We look forward to working with you to create greater opportunities throughout The Corridor. At USF, we have incredible momentum. And we’re just getting started.

Cordially yours,

Judy Genshaft
President, University of South Florida System
The ability to preserve memory plays a pivotal role in healthy brain function later in life. But for some adults, memory loss is a scary reality. In partnership with ElMindA and The Villages Health, researchers at the University of South Florida (USF) may have an answer: Brain Network Activation (BNA) technology.

BNA technology uses functional electroencephalogram technology to produce a map showing how well each part of the brain functions. Wearing a cap fitted with electrodes, doctors can test the speed and strength of the patient’s responses. Originally developed by ElMindA, this technology has been used to treat and evaluate concussions, but Carla VandeWeerd, Ph.D., USF associate professor, believes it could be applied to evaluate brain health in aging adults.

A Matching Grants Research Program project connects VandeWeerd in collaboration with The Villages Health to conduct a two-year study focused on differentiating unhealthy brain patterns from healthy ones.

To date, more than 700 adults have participated in the study.

"With The Corridor’s support, we’ve had the opportunity to collect data on questions we do not know the answers to," said VandeWeerd.

Both VandeWeerd and Jeffrey Lowenkron, M.D., chief medical officer for The Villages Health, feel BNA technology has the potential to reshape health care, diagnosis and treatment practices for aging adults.

"Being able to ask ourselves, ‘how can we take technology and link it to an actual treatment course’ – that to me is the benefit of a relationship with The Corridor," said Lowenkron.
For the wireless generation, the faster innovative technology is developed, the better, and the next generation in wireless technology is fast approaching thanks to two Corridor innovators.

Dr. Weng-Qing Xu, general manager of platform technology development and incubation at II-VI Incorporated, and his team have been growing and fabricating a thin-film diamond, which has properties that could enable next-generation, high-speed electronic components in 5G wireless handsets.

Xu’s team collaborated with Dr. Jing Wang, an associate professor in the department of electrical engineering at the University of South Florida (USF), through the Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) project to design, model, fabricate and characterize prototype devices. This new generation of wireless technology will achieve higher bandwidth, meaning faster-than-ever wireless communication.

“II-VI is a leader in engineered materials and thin-film technologies for communications,” said Xu. “Our work with USF accelerates the development timelines and will enable us to be ready in time to serve the market for 5G wireless components.”

Having received funding from The Corridor’s MGRP for over a dozen projects in recent years, Wang was familiar with the benefits the project would have by partnering with Xu’s team.

“Without The Corridor, we could not have gotten to this point and the fact that it doesn’t take forever to get reviewed and approved is such a great thing,” said Wang. “Especially when we are talking about 5G wireless communication, we need to move fast and not miss the window of opportunity for this type of technology.”
Now we’re making it easier than ever for companies to connect with one of the nation’s fastest rising public research university systems.

When your company is looking for a partner in research, innovation, or talent development, the USF OFFICE OF CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS will connect you to the future.

Discuss your partnership today with Michael Bloom, PhD
Senior Director, Office of Corporate Partnerships
813-974-9737 or mbloom@usf.edu

usf.edu/partner
Progress at the University of Florida (UF) this past year has continued full steam, putting us in a better position than ever to remain a strong engine for Florida’s economic development and The Corridor.

In September, we learned that we had achieved a long-standing goal of being named a top 10 public research university by U.S. News & World Report. This designation speaks highly of the quality of education our students receive, the value of their degrees and their preparation to enter the workforce.

Thanks to the support of the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott, we announced in June our plan to hire 600 faculty, over and above the 300 to 400 we normally hire annually to replace those who retire or leave the university. These new hires will put UF in an even better position to produce highly qualified graduates and conduct cutting-edge research.

Research and development spending reached $791 million in fiscal year 2016, the most recent year for which national comparison figures are available. That puts UF in the No. 24 position among all universities nationwide and 14th among public institutions. We’re also routinely ranked among the nation’s top universities, public or private, in innovation, as measured by patents, licenses and the startups we spin off.

Innovation Hub, UF’s 48,000-square-foot business super-incubator, doubled in size with the opening in January of Innovation Hub Phase II. The expansion includes new private offices and lab space for startups, which have thrived since the first phase opened in 2011. Phase I has created more than 960 new jobs and is home to nearly three dozen startups.

Near the center of campus, the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering Laboratory for Engineering Excellence is beginning to take shape. The 84,000-square-foot research and education facility will be the college’s flagship building, featuring a state-of-the-art biotech lab, prototyping labs, a telepresence lab and collision spaces.

Next door at the Reitz Student Union, UF’s Career Resource Center (CRC) is in the midst of adding a 10,000-square-foot expansion. The CRC already serves more than 50,000 students and alumni annually, helping to connect them with employers that include GE Appliances, technology giant Harris Corporation, The Home Depot and Disney. The expansion will mean even more opportunities for UF students to make vital links with potential employers.

We look forward to the coming year and ongoing advancements that benefit the state of Florida, its economy and its people.

Cordially yours,

Dr. W. Kent Fuchs
President, University of Florida
Imagine tiny biological soldiers inside the body ready to attack cancer cells. These soldiers have been armed and equipped for a fight through immunotherapy treatments, which uses the body’s own immune system to make the attack. However, every soldier is not created the same and cancer can still break through the well-intended and heavily armed front line.

Tampa’s Morphogenesis has technology that can help strengthen the weakest links among the ranks of biological soldiers and the company partnered with the University of Florida (UF) to advance research through a Matching Grants Research Program project.

Carlos Rinaldi, Ph.D., UF professor and interim chair for the chemical engineering department, was tasked with reproducing previous experiments and finding conditions in which the technology can effectively capture cells from biological fluids and release them to keep them alive for further study. Most capture methods kill the cells.

After obtaining often-rare cells from a blood sample of a person with cancer, the new method could help develop personalized immunotherapy treatments and “clean the cancer patient’s blood of cancer,” according to Rinaldi.

“With the machine isolating the rare circulating tumor cells, we can end the spread of these harmful cells to other parts of the body’s tissues,” said Morphogenesis President and CEO Michael Lawman.

The process of capturing and releasing the cells can be compared to finding a needle in a haystack and those searching include two UF student researchers.

“Materials research and biomedical testing is expensive,” said Rinaldi. “It’s really difficult and expensive work, so The Corridor funding has really enabled Morphogenesis to initiate this project.”

Lawman agrees.

“Without the Matching Grants Research Program, we wouldn’t have been able to do this project,” said Lawman. “As a company, we almost had to put this research away on a shelf because of lack of funding, but with The Corridor we have been able to concentrate on this and take these developments to clinical trials this year.”
Creating a customized, patient-specific brain tumor treatment that’s also painless and non-invasive may sound far-fetched, but two Corridor innovators are making it happen.

For 30 years, Frank Bova, Ph.D., professor in the department of neurosurgery at the University of Florida, has been researching and treating patients with intricate brain tumors using radiosurgery. Radiosurgery attacks cancerous brain tumors by accurately targeting radiation in large doses to effectively kill the tumor and stop its growth. Depending on the tumor, multiple procedures may be needed.

Looking for a more effective technology, Bova’s team partnered with .decimal’s Chief Technology Officer Kevin Erhart, Ph.D., through a Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) project to develop a technology that will accelerate cancer treatment by combining radiosurgery and proton beams.

“We thought this was a unique opportunity for us to combine .decimal’s expertise and our expertise to develop what could be a really effective new tool when looking at treating brain tumors” said Bova.

Research at UF and the Sanford-based .decimal seeks to optimize both the unique qualities of a proton therapy beam with the best practices of radiation delivery to produce truly optimal tumor control, while also optimizing the preservation of normal tissue function.

“Without the money we received from The Corridor, we would not have been able to pursue this project,” said Erhart. “It’s not something we would’ve had the time or expertise to really accomplish on our own.”

A past researcher on an MGRP project when he was a student at the University of Central Florida, Erhart knew the benefits of partnership for the project.

“We have been able to get access to certain resources because of The Corridor, as well as build a partnership with the University of Florida that’s been as beneficial as the money. We have thrived on projects that help transition technology from universities or hospitals to the commercial market, so access to funding for these types of projects is extremely helpful for a small company like us.”
For more than a century, Gainesville and Alachua County have been the University of Florida’s home for discovery and innovation.

UF is one of the nation’s most comprehensive universities, with research and scholarship underway in all 16 colleges.

State-of-the-art facilities like the new chemistry building, Joseph Hernandez Hall, provide UF researchers with the tools they need to make discoveries.

With thousands of world-class faculty members conducting nearly $800 million in research, there are opportunities for everyone from undergraduates to post-docs to participate.

research.ufl.edu
technology
in the corridor

INDUSTRY STATISTICS

Take a peek into the largest high tech sectors in The Corridor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color Key</th>
<th>Percentage Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services</td>
<td>39.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Info Tech</td>
<td>19.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Tech</td>
<td>22.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microelectronics</td>
<td>5.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Tech</td>
<td>5.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photonics</td>
<td>.89%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2017, The Corridor supported an estimated 21,979 technology establishments and 252,439 technology jobs, with an average salary of $86,096.
In 2017, The Corridor supported an estimated 21,979 technology establishments and 252,439 technology jobs, with an average salary of $86,096.

**Corridor Sector Employment**

The technology industry clusters are based upon a modification of standard, published definitions from TechAmerica (formerly AeA) using specified NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System) industries. For each technology industry cluster, data retrieved from the Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW) is aggregated for each of the NAICS industries identified via TechAmerica. The statistics are based upon QCEW employer data from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, aggregated at the county-by-county level for the 23-county Florida High Tech Corridor region. The data used in this study is the most recent data available from the first quarter of 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Number of People Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$0 - $20,000</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000 - $40,000</td>
<td>Info Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 - $60,000</td>
<td>Other Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$60,000 - $80,000</td>
<td>Aerospace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 - $100,000</td>
<td>Microelectronics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 - $120,000</td>
<td>Medical Tech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$120,000 - $140,000</td>
<td>Photonics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Services
Insurance agencies and brokerages, direct insurance carriers, securities brokerage, financial transaction processing, reserve and clearinghouse activities
Notable Companies: KPMG, Deloitte, FIS, Fiserv

Information Technology
Custom computer programming services, data processing, hosting and related services, software publishers, computer training
Notable Companies: Harris Corporation, IBM Corporation, ReliaQuest, Tech Data

Other Tech
Engineering services, wired telecommunications carriers, other scientific and technical consulting services, radio and television broadcasting, wireless communications, equipment manufacturing
Notable Companies: Syngenta, Northrop Grumman, EA SPORTS, CAE, Leidos

Aerospace
Navigational, measuring, electromedical and control instruments manufacturing, aerospace product and parts manufacturing
Notable Companies: Blue Origin, SpaceX, Lockheed Martin, Boeing

Microelectronics
Semiconductor and other electronic component manufacturing, computer and peripheral equipment manufacturing
Notable Companies: Jabil, Sinmat, Draper, Dais Analytic Corporation

Medical Technology
Medical equipment and supplies manufacturing, pharmaceutical and medicine manufacturing
Notable Companies: Moffitt Cancer Center, SRI International, RTI Surgical, MRI Global

Photonics
Commercial and service industry machinery manufacturing, instruments and related products manufacturing for measuring, displaying and controlling industrial process variables
Notable Companies: Gooch and Housego, L-3 Communications, Lockheed Martin
INDUSTRY STATISTICS
TRADE ASSOCIATIONS 2018

GENERAL TECHNOLOGY
Florida Business Incubation Association
12201 Research Pkwy., Ste. 501
Orlando, FL 32826
Dr. Thomas O’Neal, President
407.882.1120 • thomas.oneal@ucf.edu
www.fbiaonline.org

Florida Citrus Mutual
600 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830
Mike Sparks, Executive Vice President/CEO
863.682.1111 • mikes@flcitrusmutual.com
www.flcitrusmutual.com

Florida Farm Bureau Federation
P.O. Box 147030
Gainesville, FL 32614-7030
John Hoblick, President
352.374.1504 • john.hoblick@ffbf.org
www.floridafarmbureau.org

Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
605 E. Main St.
Bartow, FL 33830
Mary Hartney, President
863.686.4827 • mhartney@ffaa.org
www.ffaa.org

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
800 Trafalgar Ct., Ste. 200
Maitland, FL 32751
Mike Stuart, President
321.214.5200 • martha.tucker@ffva.com
www.ffva.com

Florida Venture Forum
707 W. Azeele St.
Tampa, FL 33606
Kevin Burgoyne, President
813.326.8116 • kevin@venture.org
www.venture.org

Florida Venture Sourcing
info@fordaventuresourcing.com
www.fordaventuresourcing.com

Florida Aviation Business Association
P.O. Box 140273
Orlando, FL 32814
Richard Richards, President
321-353.9069 • president@faba.aero
www.faba.aero

Space Florida
505 Odyssey Way, Ste. 300
Exploration Park, FL 32953
Frank DiBello, President & CEO
321-730.5301 • info@spaceflorida.gov
www.spaceflorida.gov

Digital Media/Interactive Entertainment
Film Florida
2516 Quail Park Ter.
Kissimmee, FL 34743
John Lux, Executive Director
407.494.6195 • info@filmflorida.org
www.filmflorida.org

Indienomicon
Orlando, FL
hello@indienomicon.com
www.indienomicon.com

Orlando ACM SIGGRAPH
Enca Jacobs, Chair
ericjacobs@siggraph.org
http://orlando.siggraph.org

Financial Services
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors – Florida
P.O. Box 14365
Tallahassee, FL 32317
Tom Ashley, AIP, AAMS, AIAM, CEO
850.422.1701 • tom.ashley@naifa-florida.org
www.naifa-florida.org

Florida Bankers Association
1001 Thomasville Road, Ste. 201
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Alex Sanchez, President & CEO
850.701.3518 • asanchez@floridabankers.com
www.floridabankers.com

Florida Venture Forum
707 W. Azeele St.
Tampa, FL 33606
Kevin Burgoyne, President
813.326.8116 • kevin@venture.org
www.venture.org

Florida Venture Sourcing
info@fordaventuresourcing.com
www.fordaventuresourcing.com

AGRITECHNOLOGY
Agriculture Institute of Florida
P.O. Box 940295
Maitland, FL 32794-0295
info@aginstitute.org
www.aginstitute.org

Florida Citrus Mutual
600 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830
Mike Sparks, Executive Vice President/CEO
863.682.1111 • mikes@flcitrusmutual.com
www.flcitrusmutual.com

Florida Citrus Processors Association
201 N. Frankln St., Ste. 2000
Tampa, FL 33602
Kristen Carlson, Executive Director
813.273.4200 • kristen@fcpa.com
www.fcplanner.org

Florida Farm Bureau Federation
P.O. Box 147030
Gainesville, FL 32614-7030
John Hoblick, President
352.374.1504 • john.hoblick@ffbf.org
www.floridafarmbureau.org

Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association
605 E. Main St.
Bartow, FL 33830
Mary Hartney, President
863.690.4827 • mhartney@ffaa.org
www.ffaa.org

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
800 Trafalgar Ct., Ste. 200
Maitland, FL 32751
Mike Stuart, President
321.214.5200 • martha.tucker@ffva.com
www.ffva.com

Highlands County Citrus Growers Association
6419 U.S. 27 South
Sebring, FL 33876
Ray Royce, Executive Director
863.385.8091 • rroyce@hccga.com
www.hccga.com

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
P.O. Box 110180
Gainesville, FL 32606-10180
Jack Payne, Senior Vice President
352.353.5200 • jack@ffas.ufl.edu
www.ffas.ufl.edu

AVIATION & AEROSPACE
Florida Airports Council
5802 Huffner Ave., Ste 708
Orlando, FL 32822
Lisa Walters, President/CEO
407.745.4161 • lisaw@floridairports.org
www.floridaairports.org

Florida Aviation Business Association
P.O. Box 140273
Orlando, FL 32814
Richard Richards, President
321-353.9069 • president@faba.aero
www.faba.aero

Space Florida
505 Odyssey Way, Ste. 300
Exploration Park, FL 32953
Frank DiBello, President & CEO
321-730.5301 • info@spaceflorida.gov
www.spaceflorida.gov

Florida lakes Industry Council
5802 Hoffner Ave., Ste 708
Orlando, FL 32822
Lisa Waters, President/CEO
407.745.4161 • lisaw@floridairports.org
www.floridaairports.org

Florida Aviation Business Association
P.O. Box 140273
Orlando, FL 32814
Richard Richards, President
321-353.9069 • president@faba.aero
www.faba.aero

Space Florida
505 Odyssey Way, Ste. 300
Exploration Park, FL 32953
Frank DiBello, President & CEO
321-730.5301 • info@spaceflorida.gov
www.spaceflorida.gov

Digital Media/Interactive Entertainment
Film Florida
2516 Quail Park Ter.
Kissimmee, FL 34743
John Lux, Executive Director
407.494.6195 • info@filmflorida.org
www.filmflorida.org

Indienomicon
Orlando, FL
hello@indienomicon.com
www.indienomicon.com

Orlando ACM SIGGRAPH
Enca Jacobs, Chair
ericjacobs@siggraph.org
http://orlando.siggraph.org

Financial Services
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors – Florida
P.O. Box 14365
Tallahassee, FL 32317
Tom Ashley, AIP, AAMS, AIAM, CEO
850.422.1701 • tom.ashley@naifa-florida.org
www.naifa-florida.org

Florida Bankers Association
1001 Thomasville Road, Ste. 201
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Alex Sanchez, President & CEO
850.701.3518 • asanchez@floridabankers.com
www.floridabankers.com

Florida Venture Forum
707 W. Azeele St.
Tampa, FL 33606
Kevin Burgoyne, President
813.326.8116 • kevin@venture.org
www.venture.org

Florida Venture Sourcing
info@fordaventuresourcing.com
www.fordaventuresourcing.com
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA)
Orlando, FL
David Norman, President
david.norman@exfo.com
www.afcea.org/membership/chapters/search.jsp

Association of Information Technology Professionals, North-Central Florida Chapter
P.O. Box 12375
Gainesville, FL 32612
352.354.2487 • info@aitp-ncfl.org
www.aitp-ncfl.org

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Central & North Florida Chapter
Bill Blevett, President
cnfl.president@himsschapter.org
http://cnfl.himsschapter.org/

Society for Information Management
Central Florida Chapter
Craig Loftin, President
cloftin26@gmail.com
www.simcfl.org

LIFE SCIENCES/MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

BioFlorida
6742 Forest Hill Blvd., Ste. 256
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
561.338.1005 • info@bioflorida.com
www.bioflorida.com

Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium
P.O. Box 7693
Tallahassee, FL 32314-7693
850.270.3158 • info@fmmunity.com
www.fmmunity.com

MICROELECTRONICS/NANOTECHNOLOGY

International Microelectronics and Packaging Society Florida Chapter
Mike McIntire, Chapter President
mike.mcintire@precisionintertech.com
http://www.mimembers.org/groups/profile/view?groupID=1982

Particle Engineering Research Center
P.O. Box 116136
Gainesville, FL 32611
Brian Moudgil, Director
352.941.1194 • bmoudgil@perc.ufl.edu
http://perc.ufl.edu

Modeling, Simulation & Training

Institute for Simulation and Training
3100 Technology Pkwy.
Orlando, FL 32826
Randal Shumaker, Director
407.892.1500 • shumaker@ist.ucf.edu
www.ist.ucf.edu
National Center for Simulation
3039 Technology Pkwy.
Orlando, FL 32826
Thomas Baptiste, President/CEO
407.384.6111
tbaptiste@simulationinformation.com
www.simulationinformation.com
National Defense Industrial Association: Central Florida Chapter
P.O. Box 78259
Orlando, FL 32887-0263
Trevor Huth, President
trevor.huth@parsons.com
www.ndia-cfl.org
International Council on Systems Engineering, Orlando Chapter
Orlando, FL
John Allen, President
john@syse.biz
www.incose.org/orlando
International Council on Systems Engineering, Space Coast Chapter
Melbourne, FL
John Allen, President
john@syse.biz
www.incose/org/scc
International Test and Evaluation Association, Central Florida Chapter
12472 Lake Underhill Road, Box 133
Orlando, FL 32826
Steve Gordon, President
407.492.1423 • steve.gordon@gts.gatech.edu
www.itea.org/central-florida-chapter-home.html

OPTICS & PHOTONICS

Florida Photonics Cluster
Orlando, FL
Alex Fong, Vice President
407.422.3177 • afgong@dlnet.com
www.floridaphotonicscluster.org

Surface Mount Technology Association (SMTA)
Space Coast Chapter
Melbourne, FL
Michael Newman, President
321.501.2072 • michael.newman@harris.com
www.smta.org/chapters/chapters_detail.cfm?chapter_id=114

International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE)
www.spie.org

Laser Institute of America (LIA)
13501 Ingenuity Dr., Ste. 128
Orlando, FL 32826
800.345.2737
www.lia.org

Optical Society of America
2010 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
202.223.8130 • erogan@osa.org
www.osa.org

Society for Information Display (SID), UCF Student Chapter
University of Central Florida
4504 Scorpion St.
Orlando, FL 32816
Prof. Shin-Tson Wu, Advisor
407.823.4763 • swu@creol.ucf.edu
http://sid.creol.ucf.edu

Sustainable Energy

Florida Alliance for Renewable Energy
10013 SW 223rd Ln.
Cutler Bay, FL 33190
561.703.4345 • mleise@ffanergy.org
www.ffanergy.org

Florida BioFuels & BioEnergy Association
P.O. Box 38070
Tallahassee, FL 32315
850.205.5283
www.floridaebiofuelassociation.com

Florida Green Building Coalition
25 E. Central Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32801
Jeremy Nelson, President
407.777.4914 • info@floridaebuilding.org
www.floridaebuilding.org

Florida Solar Energy Center
1679 Clearlake Road
Cocoa, FL 32922-5703
Sherri Shields, Director of Communications
321.638.1019
www.fsec.ucf.edu

Florida Solar Energy Industries Association
2555 Porter Lake Dr., Ste. 106
Sarasota, FL 34240
Wendy Parker Barsell, Executive Director
407.339.2010 • wendy@flaseia.org
www.flaseia.org

Florida Solar Energy Industries Association
2555 Porter Lake Dr., Ste. 106
Sarasota, FL 34240
Wendy Parker Barsell, Executive Director
407.339.2010 • wendy@flaseia.org
www.flaseia.org
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If you live in Florida, there is a good chance you live in the Florida High Tech Corridor. From Suncoast to Space Coast, our thriving high tech hub spans 23 counties. Through a unique partnership with dozens of economic development, workforce, academic and industry partners, The Corridor has supported the growth of high tech industry in this region for more than 20 years.

Coupled with the unique spirit of partnership you can only find here, the evolution of technology has enabled our programs to transform in ways we could not have imagined when this organization was founded. Keeping up with high tech economic development means not just planning for tomorrow, but for many years to come. Projects are already underway to ensure The Corridor continues receiving recognition for its efforts to build a region where research and innovation thrive.

Before we close the book on 2016-2017, I invite you to join me in reflection on another fantastic year of growth. Please read on for details about The Corridor’s achievements, initiatives and programs over the past year.

Ed Schons
President, Florida High Tech Corridor Council
The Corridor Council is a regional economic development initiative of three research universities – the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF). University presidents co-chair the Council, accompanied by presidents of two state colleges and representatives of high tech industry. Their guidance is essential to achieving our mission.

In 2016-2017, the Council received help from nearly 400 volunteers who contributed more than 3,000 hours to further our mission. THANK YOU!

The Corridor's mission is to grow high tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship.

The Corridor Council:
Dr. John Hitt, President, University of Central Florida – Council Co-Chair
Dr. Judy Genshaft, President, University of South Florida – Council Co-Chair
Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, President, University of Florida – Council Co-Chair
Sue Washer, CEO, Applied Genetic Technologies Corp.
Raymond “Duke” Duquette, President & General Manager, CAE USA Military Simulation & Training
Sara Hale, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, CoastalCloud Graphene Consulting
Carol Craig, Founder & CEO, Craig Technologies
David Robinson, President, DSM Technology Consultants
Harry Sidoti, State President, Duke Energy
Dr. James Richey, President, Eastern Florida State College
Daryl Hatt, Vice President, Electronic Arts Tiburon
H. Lee Moffitt, Former Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
Dr. Dwayne McCay, President, Florida Institute of Technology
Dr. Randy K. Avent, President, Florida Polytechnic University
Thomas Campbell, Director of Innovation, Space and Intelligence Systems, Harris Corporation
George Gordon, Executive Director, Healthbox Florida
Timothy Main, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Jabil Circuit Inc.
Jim Jardon, CEO, JHT Inc.
Paul Grimes, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Leidos Engineering
Paul Lemmo, Vice President of Fire Control and Special Operations Contractor Logistics Support Services, Lockheed Martin
Scott Farris, CEO, Micro Vapor Devices
Geary Havran, President, NDH Medical Inc.
Dr. Timothy Beard, President, Pasco Hernando State College
Beverly Seay, University of Central Florida Board of Trustees
Captain Erik Elz, USN Commanding Officer (Advisory Member), Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWTCD)
Randolph Berridge, Founding President, Florida High Tech Corridor Council Inc.
Ed Schons, President, Florida High Tech Corridor Council Inc.
ACCELERATING RESEARCH

The Corridor’s Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) fosters applied research partnerships between technology companies and research experts from our three universities to innovate and find solutions that advance economic development. Since inception of the MGRP in 1996, Corridor investments have been matched by corporate cash and in-kind donations to generate more than $1 billion in quantifiable downstream impacts.

2016-2017 MGRP Highlights:
• 62 MGRP projects
• 48 high tech companies partnering with student and faculty research teams
• $3.4 million investment in cash by The Corridor
• $10.7 million investment in cash, in-kind services and equipment by industry partners

CULTIVATING HIGH TECH WORKFORCE

Not only does The Corridor grow high tech industry, but also the workforce to support it. Our efforts to strengthen the talent pipeline reach students from middle school to post-secondary education and beyond.

• stemCONNECT: “stemCONNECT” was established this year as the new identity for our workforce initiatives. It truly does make the connection between academia and private industry by bringing together classrooms and experts in high tech industry for engaging and free presentations. stemCONNECT has already impacted more than 5,000 students across the region since we launched virtual sessions in 2013 and has the potential to impact thousands more through partnerships formed this year with Boys & Girls Clubs and Junior Achievement. (stemCONNECT was an aspect of our in-person program and became the focus of our outreach in 2017.)

Efforts to enhance classroom learning continued in our annual in-person session hosted by stemCONNECT for nearly 80 teachers during the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC), the world’s largest modeling, simulation and training (MS&T) conference. MS&T industry partners shared updates on technology advancements and talent needs, providing insight to help teachers better prepare students for real-world applications of classroom lessons. Teachers and industry partners can learn more and register for stemCONNECT at www.fistemconnect.com.

• Career Expo 2017: For the fourth time, The Corridor’s Career Expo (CE) brought together nearly 50 companies, economic development organizations and K-12 school systems, along with more than 50 universities and colleges in Florida and surrounding states for discussions about talent development, attraction and retention. Career Expo is critical to many of The Corridor’s high tech industry partners for its effectiveness in recruiting top talent, which is reflected in a new name for the March 2018 event: The Corridor Talent Forum.
"The 2017 Corridor Talent Forum was an outstanding opportunity to connect and network with multiple employers over a two-day period. When our office evaluates an employer relations event, we review employer traffic at the event and examine employer activity after the event. At the Florida High Tech Corridor Talent Forum, we met with a large number of employers at the event, had employers follow-up and post jobs and internships after the event, and even had several employers follow-up by attending two of our career fairs to actively recruit our students!" – Scott T. Williams, Executive Director, University of Georgia Career Center

Additionally, The Corridor financially supports partner workforce development programs as we work to better equip talent in our region. Events supported by The Corridor include the State Science and Engineering Fair, regional CareerSource summits and more.

SUPPORTING STARTUP ACTIVITY

The Corridor supports several programs and activities that enable our region’s entrepreneurs to be 21st century pioneers.

- FLVEC: Entrepreneurs can now find the help they need in one place: the Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center (FLVEC) at www.FLVEC.com, a resource database and social networking platform for doing business in Florida. FLVEC reached the milestone of publishing 400 entrepreneur profiles this year following a website redesign to showcase the stories of local entrepreneurs. The inclusion of entrepreneurial profiles has proven to be one of the most clicked-through sections of the website as people engage with each other for mentorship, venture capital, advice and more. Feedback from quarterly calls with key influencers notes this service fills a critical need for entrepreneurs. In 2018, FLVEC will also explore housing a blog of featured entrepreneurial content. Visit www.FLVEC.com throughout the year for the latest.

- GrowFL: An Economic Gardening® approach for growing second-stage companies, GrowFL provides resources, mentoring, support and more to help business owners overcome obstacles to growth and achieve further success. Its signature “Florida Companies to Watch” awards spotlighted 50 outstanding second-stage companies – including several from The Corridor – raising their profile among investors and business leaders. Since inception in 2009, GrowFL-assisted companies have contributed more than $941 million in total regional GDP.

- University-Based Incubators: Business incubators run by The Corridor’s three research universities have experienced enormous growth and client success, garnering recognition at home and abroad. For every public dollar invested in university incubators – including Corridor funds – return on investment is six-to-one.

[Corridor University Incubators: UCF Business Incubation Program, USF CONNECT Tampa Bay Technology Incubator, Innovation Hub at UF, UF Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute]
DEVELOPING TOMORROW’S ECONOMY

• The Corridor committed more than $550,000 to partner organizations, matching contributions to stimulate high tech activity in the region through 51 programs. The organization also encourages local innovators in economic development to pursue their Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation with the Dan Webster Young Innovator Scholarship of up to $5,000 for related coursework and fees announced at the Florida Economic Development Conference every year. Congratulations to this year’s recipient of the Dan Webster Young Innovator Scholarship, Derek Shavor, project manager with Hillsborough County Economic Development!

SHARING THE STORY

Our marketing programs work to improve awareness of the 23-county high tech hub among business, government and civic leaders in the region and beyond:

• Participation at major industry trade shows, such as I/ITSEC, Photonics West and SEMICON West
• Stories about our high tech region by prominent outlets, including Crain’s, Business Facilities and Florida Trend
• Social media engagement with more than 65,500 followers across Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn
• Profiles on more than 140 “Faces of Technology” shared in our annual magazine and at www.FacesofTechnology.com
• Monthly eNewsletter, Inside Florida’s High Tech Corridor, a compilation of top stories about industry news, events and research activity that reaches more than 3,500 readers

To learn more about The Corridor and its initiatives, please visit www.FloridaHighTech.com.
500 acre master-planned technology district with ample land for companies relocating or expanding to Florida

Strategically positioned for university + industry collaboration

Connected to world-class institutions, amenities + infrastructure

100,000 square feet of Class A office space

179 undeveloped plots of land

Home to BRIDG, one of the world’s most advanced sensor development and research labs

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 toward enhancing smart sensor technology innovation connected by the Internet of Things. Learn more at GoBRIDG.com.
Insiders know what is happening in the Florida High Tech Corridor and they are excited — excited for emerging new industries, recognition from around the world, a friendly business climate and more. It’s easy to catch the feeling when partners from around the region are working together toward a better tomorrow.

The Corridor is an agent for change.

To learn more and see how you fit into a changing landscape, visit FloridaHighTech.com.