

The Florida High Tech Corridor Council (The Corridor Council) experienced another successful year in 2018-2019, marked by accomplishments of our three universities – University of Central Florida (UCF), University of South Florida (USF) and University of Florida (UF) – and their industry and community partners.



## AT-A-GLANCE

- **\$3 million** allocated by The Corridor Council to match industry investments of **\$4.7 million** in 40 research projects
- **14,400 students** hosted for virtual field trips led by 170 STEM professionals
- **250 success stories** published at **lvec.com** and **loridahightech.com/magazine**
- **\$461,100 committed** to match partner investments in 60 economic development initiatives
- **12.5 million stakeholders** reached with The Corridor’s story through digital and traditional media

## Program Highlights

### MGRP: Fostering Applied Research

The Matching Grants Research Program (MGRP) fostered applied research partnerships between 35 high-tech companies and 81 research faculty and graduate students from our three universities to innovate and find solutions that address business and societal needs. Cash and in-kind investments by industry partners totaled \$4.7 and The Corridor Council’s cash match totaled \$3 million.

Additionally, FloridaMakes invested \$500,000 in the MGRP at UCF to further the development of advanced manufacturing technologies for commercialization. Following a yearlong pilot of the initiative, this partnership aims to grow its support of MGRP projects across all three Corridor Council partner universities.

Since inception of the MGRP, Corridor Council investments have been matched by corporate cash and in-kind investments to generate more than \$1 billion in quantifiable downstream impacts.

### stemCONNECT: Facilitating K-12 STEM Education

It was a record-setting year for stemCONNECT, which helped more than 14,400 students – a 160% increase over prior year – connect with more than 170 STEM subject-matter experts using virtual video conferencing tools. Experts showcased diverse career opportunities in the region’s high tech industry and helped students realize new possibilities for their future.



In December 2018, 70 STEM educators attended stemCONNECT's signature workshop at the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference (I/ITSEC) – the world's largest modeling, simulation and training conference – where they were provided with tools to support student exploration of STEM careers. Additionally, over 500 students tuned in for a live, virtual tour of the I/ITSEC trade show floor, and 22 students attended an in-person workshop on robotics.

**Talent Forum: Boosting the Region's Talent Pool**

Talent Forum 2019 brought together 50 university and state college career center directors with 50 high-tech industry professionals to foster relationships for the ongoing exchange of job leads and talent referrals. Attendees included executives and hiring managers from Electronic Arts, Northrop Grumman, Duke Energy and more. They were joined by representatives from UCF, USF, UF and others from atop U.S. News & World Report's "Best National Colleges" list, such as Harvard, MIT, Northwestern and Purdue. Hiring managers networked with career center professionals to learn best practices for campus recruiting and promote job openings at their companies. The event also featured guest speakers from CareerSource Florida and Coastal Cloud, as well as a special field trip to BRIDG, which highlighted the region's workforce development efforts and high-tech capability.

**FLVEC: Supporting Florida Startups**

The Florida Virtual Entrepreneurship Center (FLVEC) has become a preeminent business resource and entrepreneur directory in Florida, featuring a master calendar of business and entrepreneurial events and a sortable database of over 900 business resource agencies at [www.flvec.com](http://www.flvec.com). The program experienced a banner year, headlined by nearly 75,000 unique visitors to the site overall, as well as the publication of 796 success stories featuring Florida entrepreneurs that were viewed nearly 300,000 times. Sponsoring municipalities, economic development organizations and others are also realizing the benefits of investment in FLVEC, evidenced by the retention of 30 public-sector and 17 private-sector supporters.

**Marketing: Championing the Story**

Our marketing programs are strategically designed to position The Corridor among Florida's most valued assets and improve awareness of the region as a nationally recognized hub for high tech industry and innovation. In March 2019, we unveiled a new website featuring a robust library of magazine articles about the region's people and organizations who are driving high tech industry growth. Additionally, stories about industry news, events and research activity in The Corridor reached a targeted audience of over 12.5 million stakeholders through the digital magazine, email marketing, social media and traditional media channels.

**Partner Support**

The Corridor Council proudly supports our regional and county economic development partners and affiliates with the resources vital to continue their invaluable work in economic development. We committed more than \$461,100 to partner organizations, matching their contributions to stimulate high tech activity in the region through more than 60 programs. Beneficiaries included the National Center for Simulation, the National Academy of Inventors, the State & Science Technology Institute and Florida FIRST Robotics.

By funding the Dan Webster Young Innovator Scholarship Award of up to \$5,000 for coursework and fees related to pursuit of the Certified Economic Developer (CECD) credential, we also continued supporting professionals whose daily commitment is to ensure prosperity of our region through excellence in economic development.

