
YEAR IN REVIEW

2016-2017



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



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

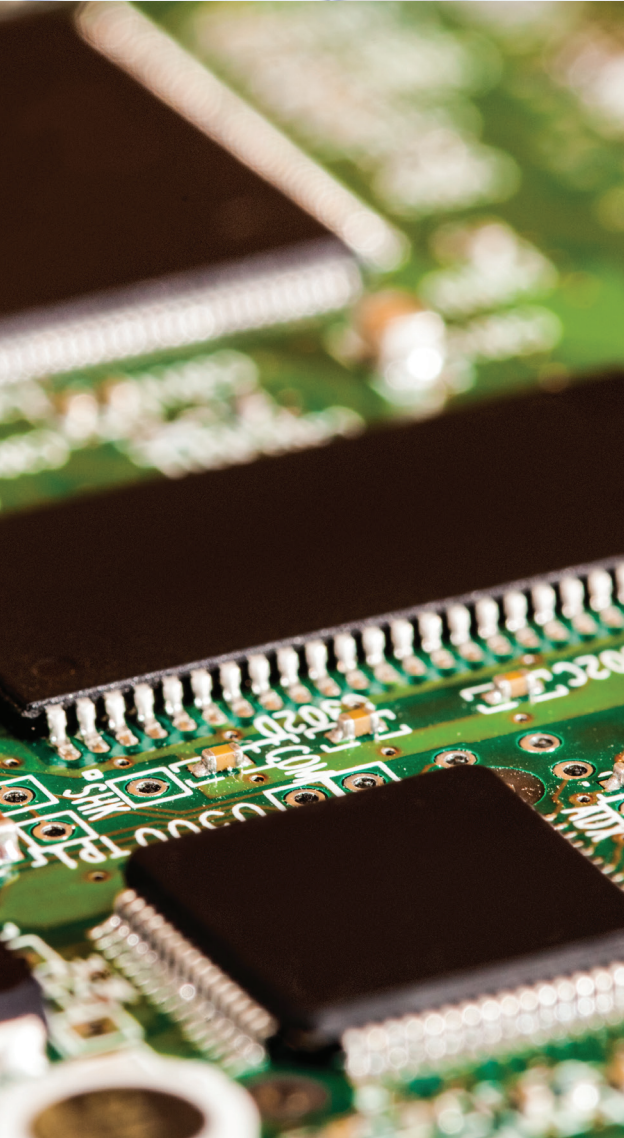
The Corridor Council is a regional economic development initiative of three research universities – the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF). University presidents co-chair the Council, accompanied by presidents of two state colleges 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 Sideris, State President, Duke Energy
- Dr. James Richey, President, Eastern Florida State College
- Daryl Holt, 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 Faris, 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 Etz, USN Commanding Officer (Advisory Member), Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division (NAWCTSD)
- 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 (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.fstemconnect.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

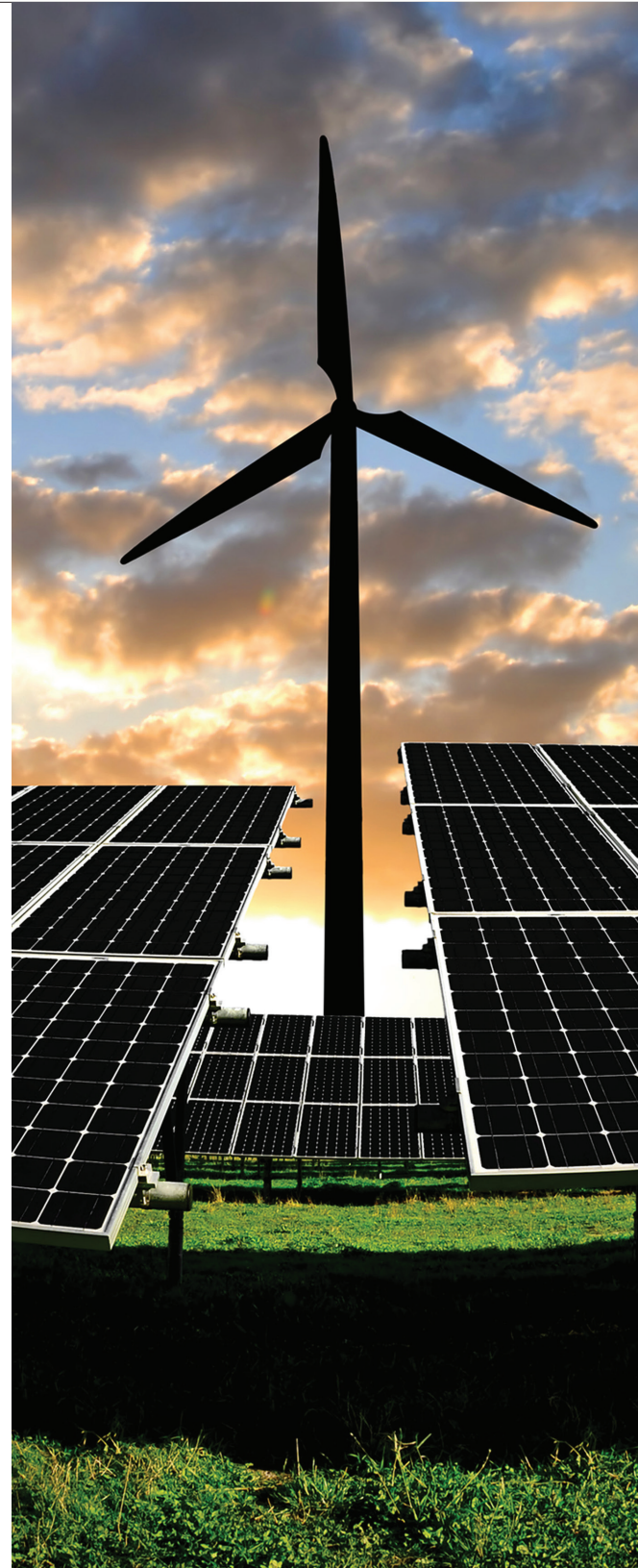
Additionally, The Corridor financially supports partner workforce development programs as we work to better equip talent in our region. Events supported by The Corridor include the State Science and Engineering Fair, regional CareerSource summits and more.

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.

