



Work In Progress

Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc.

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

This news bulletin is designed to keep you informed of recent developments in Pasco County Florida, a community of more than 470,000 people in the Tamp Bay Region.

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Saint Leo University recently announced an enrollment milestone. In the current semester, their student population hit more than 15,000 total on all campuses. Saint Leo includes teaching locations at community colleges, online learning centers and on military bases in seven states. The university has seen tremendous growth over the past decade when the enrollment was 9,100 enrollees in the spring semester.

"As local enrollment continues to grow, it helps ensure that Pasco County can continue to supply the skilled workforce that companies will need to grow the community economic base," said John Hagen, Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc. President/CEO

"New and expanding businesses are building every day in anticipation of adding jobs, expanding product and service offerings and responding to new technologies," said Denise Sanderson, Business Retention and Expansion Manager for PEDC. "Without qualified, skilled workers and management talent, a company will struggle to produce at peak performance and perhaps consider leaving the County for communities (or countries) which can provide the labor it needs."

Saint Leo University attributes some of the enrollment growth over the last decade to new degree programs being offered at the graduate level. Ten percent of the 15,041 enrollees can be found in the Master of Business Administration Degree program. According to Hagen, "This type of success is a great tool for us as economic developers to market Pasco County when recruiting businesses to the area. The bonus is that we now have the headquarters for a huge national educational enterprise in the County with strong growth potential. One has only to look at the University of Phoenix to understand the magnitude of this opportunity."

It is important that PEDC is actively involved with educational institutions such as Saint Leo University to provide the business community access to a skilled workforce by encouraging internships and recruitment programs.

PASCO COUNTY - WELL POSITIONED FOR SUPER REGION SUCCESS

On January 29, over 120 business leaders gathered at the West Pasco Chamber Business Development Week luncheon hosted by Pasco Economic Development Council, Inc. and sponsored by Bank of

America to learn about the economic blueprint for the Tampa Bay area and where Pasco County fits in it. Jim McGraw of KMK Consulting and Stuart Rogel of Tampa Bay Partnership summarized the current status of the Tampa Bay economy and presented a look into the future.

The Tampa Bay Partnership has been instrumental in leading the charge to create a high speed rail link to Orlando. This will create a “super region” that will be one of the largest markets in the United States. Pasco County stands to benefit from this activity, especially as it develops its own mass transit links to the rest of Tampa Bay.

Tampa Bay Partnership is conducting a region-wide industry and workforce analysis. These tools will help Pasco County understand the underlying economy and the skills of the thousands of local workers who commute out of the county each day. The results are expected in spring 2010 will benefit each of the communities to create and recruit jobs.

Thank you to our sponsor:



PASCO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.: A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

PEDC is an organization that promotes countywide economic development. Created in 1987 by a group of dedicated business and community leaders, it continues to be a strong partnership funded by corporate and public investors and focused on the economic vitality of Pasco County.

If you have any questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter, please contact PEDC at (813)926-0827 or cdearolf@pascoedc.com.



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Pasco County's Premier Leadership Networking Event
Register: www.pascoedc.com/WhatsNew/Pasco-Events.aspx**