



## **MAF Weekly Report-November 2, 2013**

### **Register for the Summit before Your Attention Turns to Thanksgiving Holidays!**

New additions to the Summit are being added all the time...We will be rolling out the new Dream It Do It logo, materials and plans for 2014 at the Summit...Local college students will be invited to join us on the opening night for the reception and trade show...We are collecting silent auction items for our great Silent Auction...Golf with your colleagues and get to know them better....and much more!

Don't forget to register for the Summit and Marketplace at the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort & Golf Club, St. Petersburg, Florida on December 4-6, 2013. To register, sponsor, or exhibit, please visit our website at [www.mafmfg.com](http://www.mafmfg.com). Questions? Contact [becky@nstephens.com](mailto:becky@nstephens.com) or [nancy@mafmg.com](mailto:nancy@mafmg.com) or call us at 850-402-2954. Also attached for your convenience is a registration form that can be faxed or emailed to us, along with the agenda.

### **TRADE Grant Work Begins**

Now that the MAF Center has signed an agreement with St. Pete College on the TRADE grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, work begins in earnest. All of the regional manufacturing associations (RMAs) participating have been given the draft Employer Engagement Plan which is the roadmap for the grant project and have been asked to add regional additions to the plan. RMAs were briefed on their roles, deliverables, expected activities and funding on November 1. The grant period formally began on October 24, 2013 and will span three years. During that time there will be a variety of activities that manufacturers will be asked to engage in:

- Speakers Bureaus
- College Manufacturing Program Advisory Councils
- Development of Industry Certification Preference employment materials
- Offering internships and permanent jobs to graduating manufacturing program college students
- Providing your company Human Resource contacts
- Review of college manufacturing program curriculum, course content and certifications offered
- Offering plant tours

Call your RMA and ask how you can be involved! We need to have everyone engaged to turn the skills gap around.

### **Enterprise Florida Approves MAF Legislative Agenda**

Nancy Stephens attended the Enterprise Florida quarterly Board and Stakeholders Meetings in Coral Gables last week. We are happy to report that Enterprise Florida has adopted our legislative agenda, including our research proposal which has changed shape quite a bit.

Our research agenda item has developed into a proposal that would allow the very successful High Tech Corridor Research Matching Grants Program to spread to the rest of the state. This allows Florida manufacturers, no matter where they are in FL,

to have their money matched by the state universities for manufacturing-directed research projects. Historically, a manufacturer could only obtain research matching grants if the research was being performed at University of Florida, University of Central Florida or University of South Florida. Even with that, over the life of the Florida High Tech Corridor Matching Grants Research program, below are the facts:

- 1,250 research projects with 375 companies paying 2:1 match have been conducted
- 2,500 graduate, doctoral students and research assistants and 300 faculty members have been involved
- \$58 million has been invested by the High Tech Corridor
- \$165 million has been invested by businesses
- \$840 million in quantifiable downstream impacts has been identified
- total project value of nearly \$1.06 billion
- 3,300 created
- \$34 million in state tax paid as a result.

MAF would like the whole state to be thought of as a high tech corridor so that all of our manufacturers have a helping hand with their research.

Just as a reminder, the other MAF legislative initiatives for 2014 relate to a continuation of:

- Funding for the successful export assistance program at Enterprise Florida/Small Business Development Centers
- Incentive funding for schools that graduate students with industry certifications
- Funding for Quick Response Training at \$12 million.

We also will support the agendas for Enterprise Florida, the Florida Economic Development Council, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and the Governor.

#### **News from Enterprise Florida Meeting**

Other interesting news from the Enterprise Florida meeting:

- Florida unemployment rate is down to 7.0% from 11.1% in December 2010
- 365,000 private sector jobs have been created in FL in last two years
- FL is ranked #1 by Area Development magazine for Renewed Consideration Post-Recession
- In September there were 271,000 online job postings; job postings have increased 78% since 2009
- Some 3.5 billion in state debt has been paid down and FL now has its first budget surplus in six years
- Florida's 2014-2015 general revenue predicted to be the highest ever
- \$1 billion increases for K-12 education for each of the past two years (including \$480 million for teacher salary increases)
- \$642 million invested in Florida ports between 2011-2014; \$35 million proposed for 2014

- 17% of the economic development projects Enterprise Florida is working on are manufacturing
- Manufacturing will be on top of the Targeted Industry List when it goes to the Legislature in 2014
- 60% of Florida goods are moved by truck
- Pre-Panama canal expansion container ships carry 2,400 containers; Post-Panama canal expansion container ships will be able to carry 12,000 containers

To view the Enterprise Florida annual report for 2012-2013, go to [www.eflorida.com](http://www.eflorida.com).

### **Enterprise Florida Legislative Agenda**

Following is a very brief description of the Enterprise Florida legislative agenda. For more detail, contact the MAF office.

- Strategies to help rural areas grow and prosper
- Allow a carry-over of funds appropriated for the Florida State Economic Enhancement and Development Fund
- Creation of a state matching program up to \$3 million to supplement funding for Florida's business branding campaign
- Allow a carry-forward policy and transferable/sellable credits for the Qualified Target Industries Tax Refund program
- Revisions to the capital investment tax credit program to better incentivize projects with significant capital investment
- Allowing in-kind donations to count towards statutory match requirement for economic development projects
- Adding a 14 day timeline to the approval process for the Legislative Budget Commission for Quick Action Closing fund recommendations over \$5 million
- Reauthorization of the Enterprise Zone program, with changes
- Workforce Florida's legislative budget request for Quick Response Training Funds
- Support for the Space Florida agenda
- Support for the Florida Chamber and MAF legislative agendas
- Support for the VISIT Florida tourism budget request

### **Florida a National Leader in K-12 Online and Blended Learning**

Florida was the first state in the country to legislate that all K-12 students have fulltime and part-time virtual options and that funding follows each student down to the course level. Florida remains the only state that provides a full range of supplemental and fulltime online opportunities to all students across the state. A handful of other states, including Arizona, Minnesota, and Utah, are moving in the same direction, but do not yet have enrollment numbers approaching Florida's. In Florida, an estimated 240,000 students took at least one online class in the 2012-13 school year, and 410,962 course enrollments were served. Source: Evergreen Education Group, [http://kpk12.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/EEG\\_KP2013-lr.pdf](http://kpk12.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/EEG_KP2013-lr.pdf)

### **2013 Governor's Innovators in Business Awards: Nominations Due November 15<sup>th</sup>**

Florida companies in select industries that have influenced the state's economic growth and diversification are asked to submit nominations to Enterprise Florida. Awards will be given in three categories for activity in 2012:

- Expansion: for companies that expanded their operations in 2012, investing capital and creating jobs in Florida.
- Newcomer: For new-to-Florida companies that began business operations in 2012.
- Export Excellence: For companies with new or significant increases in documented export sales.
- Innovation/Entrepreneurship: For start-up companies or innovative companies that have set a standard for entrepreneurship and creativity in the past three years.

For more information about the awards and to submit a nomination, visit

<http://www.eflorida.com/GIBA/2013.html>

### **Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act**

As we reported two weeks ago, Florida Senator Simmons prepared an initial draft for a Springs Protection Bill for public review and comments. Key items from the bill include:

- Water management districts will not grant new permits, nor renew permits for consumptive water where sufficient water is not available to restore a spring's Baseline Flow Regime;
- To address water quality issues, local wastewater treatment plants would have to meet more restrictive standards on nitrogen discharges and residential property owners would face new septic tank regulations and hook-up requirements.

Last week MAF joined regulated interests to express concerns with the proposal and signed on to a comment letter to Senator Simmons.

### **Short Notes**

- Mosaic has signed an agreement to acquire the Florida phosphate business of CF Industries for \$1.2 billion in cash. Subject to regulatory approvals, Mosaic will acquire the 22,000-acre South Pasture phosphate mine and beneficiation plant in Hardee County, Fla., a phosphate manufacturing facility in Plant City, FL and ammonia terminal and finished product warehouse facilities in Tampa.
- In 2014 Governor Scott is proposing to give \$500 million back to the people of Florida by cutting fees and taxes, reducing state debt and cutting government waste.
- The FDEP will hold the Contaminated Soils Forum on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Tallahassee. <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/>
- Interested in adopting a school through the MAF Center's *Dream It Do It* Program? Want a Quick Start guide? Contact your regional manufacturing association or June Wolfe at [june-wolfe@att.net](mailto:june-wolfe@att.net). For more information about *Dream It Do It*, visit [www.mafcenter.org](http://www.mafcenter.org).

- Know someone who should be a member of MAF? Contact [nancy@mafmfg.com](mailto:nancy@mafmfg.com) to provide the contact information.
- The Florida Administrative Register report for the week is attached.

### **Upcoming Events - 2013**

December 4-6 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturers Summit, Vinoy Renaissance Hotel, St. Petersburg, Florida. Registration is open! Visit [www.mafmfg.com](http://www.mafmfg.com)

December 5 MAF President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards Ceremony and Dinner, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturers Summit, Vinoy Renaissance Hotel, Ste. Petersburg Florida

December 12 MAF Environmental Teleconference, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. E.T. Dial in number is 712.775.7000; PIN 317371#

### **Upcoming Events – 2014**

February 3-4 Manufacturing Days at the Capital

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