

Florida International University Showcased Top Talent to CEO's of High Growth Technology Firms

Ft. Lauderdale, FL - October 18, 2006. Florida International University (FIU) and the South Florida Technology Alliance (SFTA) teamed up to get local CEOs and top university talent sharing ideas and resources at a recent event. More than 401 undergraduate and graduate level business and engineering students were presented with an opportunity to connect with top local CEO's from the South Florida technology community.

“Our goal is to encourage a dialogue between these two groups as a way to keep bright minds here in South Florida. Too often we see University graduates leaving the area in search of jobs, yet local companies are unaware or unable to tap the incredible talent coming out of our schools, so companies end up relocating people here from outside the region. SFTA looks to change some of that.” said Joel Ledlow, Chairman of SFTA.

According to Maki Sato, an FIU undergraduate Biomedical Engineering major, “I learned many things that I cannot learn from books. It was an eye-opening experience interacting with the executives. The majority of the companies came to this event to guide students in the right direction and one of the companies has already contacted me for an interview.”

CEO's found the event equally valuable. “It was a great opportunity to expose students to some of the exciting technical advancements going on in South Florida. Listening to them has helped me see how I can make my company more inviting to new talent that is entering the business world,” stated P. David Whitt, CEO of Wireless Data Systems.

“Events like this will help the South Florida business community recruit good employees and will help support the economic ecostructure of the region,” said Dr. Alan L. Carsrud, Executive Director of FIU's Eugenio Pino & Family Global Entrepreneurship Center.

Additionally SFTA awarded ten sponsorships to FIU (\$5000) in an effort to nurture these budding relationships. The SFTA sponsorships will further assist the on-going efforts of interaction and to promote South Florida's growth.

CEO's that participated included: Albert Santalo - Avisena, Brian H. Nelson - Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge, Deborah Vazquez - PROTECH, Emmett Lange - Sunera, Hugo G. Perez - Datacorp, Joel Ledlow -Acarra, Jose Sinai - Sungard/Investran, Ron Tarro- SDD Systems, Y.P. Chan - The Singing Machine Company, P. David Whitt - Wireless Data Systems.

About SFTA

The South Florida Technology Alliance (SFTA) connects technology leaders to share ideas and resources to attract, retain, and expand the talented workforce, to facilitate business development and strategic partnerships, and to attract growth capital and buyers to the South Florida technology community. Visit www.southfloridatech.org.

About FIU Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center

Whether in the arts, sciences, business, engineering or humanities, the Eugenio Pino and Family Global Entrepreneurship Center strives to make entrepreneurship an important part of education at FIU. It facilitates all entrepreneurial activities at FIU with the support of the College of Business Administration, the College of Engineering and Computing Sciences, and the College of Arts & Sciences. The unique partnerships of these Colleges have brought campus-wide awareness of entrepreneurship as an approach to life that enhances and transcends traditional academic experiences. FIU has been designated a Kauffman Campus by the Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City. Visit www.entrepreneurship.fiu.edu.