

# Welcome to

2026  
**IGNITE**

SPARKING NEW IDEAS | CREATING NEW CONNECTIONS



FEDC ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
MAY 13-15, 2026 | ORLANDO, FL

# ILLUMINATING LEADERS AWARDS



Please Welcome  
**Verdell Hawkins**  
*Master of Ceremonies*



# Thank You to Our PICTURE PERFECT RECEPTION PARTNERS



# DAN WEBSTER YOUNG INNOVATOR SCHOLARSHIPS

*presented by*

**Paul A. Sohl**  
**Rear Adm. USN (ret)**  
**CEO**

**the**  
**florida**  
**high tech**  
**corridor**  
**30** Years

# IT'S NOT JUST A REGION. IT'S A LAUNCHPAD FOR TOMORROW.

Since our founding in 1996, the Florida High Tech Corridor has brought world-class research universities, future-focused entrepreneurs, and forward-thinking industry leaders together to build one of the nation's most dynamic business ecosystems. Discover how collaboration drives innovation through the power of partnerships.

the  
florida  
high tech  
corridor

**30**  
1996 - 2026

Learn more at  
[www.floridahightech.com](http://www.floridahightech.com)



**GAINESVILLE**



**ORLANDO**



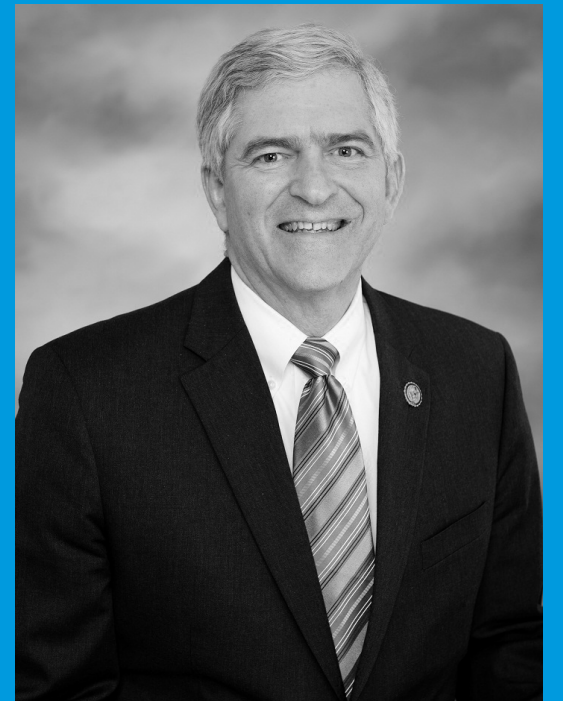
**TAMPA**



**SPACE COAST**

**The Dan Webster Young Innovator Scholarship Award is sponsored by the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and is given annually in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding young innovator in economic development in Florida. The recipient receives a scholarship of up to \$5,000 to be applied toward coursework and fees associated with achieving a significant professional certification. The award was first given in 2015 and was named to honor Congressman Webster for his dedication and commitment to economic development in Florida.**

## **Dan Webster Young Innovator Scholarship Award**



# DAN WEBSTER SCHOLARSHIP PAST RECIPIENTS

2025: Bryce Morrison, Ocala CEP

2024: Sarah Alway, Pasco EDC

2023: Zach Gilmore, MEDP Florida SBDC at UWF

2022: Bryan Pederson, City of Largo

2021: Shane Chadwick, MSED, CEcD, Florida's Great Northwest

2020: Ben Friedman, CERP, Pinellas Economic Development

2019: Antonio Jefferson, MEDP, Opportunity Florida

2019: Garrett Wright, Bay County EDA

2018: Javier Marin, CEcD, Central Florida Development Council

2017: Derek Shavor, Hillsborough County

2016: Scarlett Phaneuf, CEcD, MEDP, PowerSouth Energy

2015: Jill Marasa, EDC of St. Lucie County

# 2026 DAN WEBSTER YOUNG INNOVATOR

**Abigail Wagner**  
*Economic Development*  
*Associate Director*



**ORLANDO**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

# 2026 DAN WEBSTER YOUNG INNOVATOR

**Jackie Chang**  
*Economic Development  
Coordinator*



# AWARDS JUDGES



# 2026 Deals of the Year

*presented by*

**Michael Corbit**  
**Vice President**



# 2026 Deal of the Year *Entries*





# DEAL OF THE YEAR REGIONAL

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## DEAL OF THE YEAR - REGIONAL



### CHIK-FIL-A SUPPLY

- 160 jobs at \$80,000 avg wage
- CSX Select Site at Central FL ILP
- \$150 million in capital investment



# DEAL OF THE YEAR

## URBAN

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## Deal of the Year - Urban



### WILLIAMS INTERNATIONAL

- 336 jobs at \$70,000 avg wage
- 1 million square feet on 106 acres
- \$1 billion in capital investment



# DEAL OF THE YEAR

## RURAL

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## DEAL OF THE YEAR - RURAL



### POINT BLANK ENTERPRISES

- 300 jobs at \$54,000 avg wage
- 118,000 sf on Duke Energy Ready Site
- \$36 million in capital investment

# 2026 Innovative Partnership & Website Awards

*presented by*

**Lisa Rain**

Senior Cluster Manager  
Energy + Environmental Sciences  
Cenflurence - Central Florida Cluster  
Initiative

the  
florida  
high tech  
corridor  
30 Years



# Innovative Partnership Public / Private

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# 2026 Innovative Partnership *Entries*





# Innovative Partnership Public/Private <\$25,000



**The \$36 Million Catalyst  
Converting Federal Investment into  
High-Wage Workforce Opportunity**





# Innovative Partnerships

Between \$25,000 and \$50,000 and > \$50,000



**QUANTUM BEACH 2025**

Igniting Florida's role in the quantum revolution

October 8, 2025 | Kravis Center, West Palm Beach, FL



# Website

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# 2026 Website *Entries*





## Website

<\$25,000



[indianrivered.com](http://indianrivered.com)



## Website

Between \$25,000 and \$50,000



**CITRUS COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
A NATURAL ADVANTAGE

[citrusadvantage.com](http://citrusadvantage.com)



# Website

>\$50,000



[FloridaFirstSites.com](http://FloridaFirstSites.com)

# 2026 Advertising and Public Relations Awards

*presented by*

**David Hill, MBA**

**Director, Sales & Marketing  
Corporate Training and Professional  
Education**





# Advertising Campaign Paid

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# 2026 Advertising Campaign (Paid) *Entries*





# Advertising Campaign - Paid

< \$25,000



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Your Business. Cleared for Takeoff.*

**Cleared for Takeoff: PCS  
Workforce Campaign**



# Advertising Campaign - Paid

\$25,000 - \$50,000



## Find Your Future in JAX



# Advertising Campaign - Paid

>\$50,000



**“Work Hard. Live Better.”**



# Public Relations Campaign Organic

# 2026 Public Relations Campaign (Organic) *Entries*





# Marketing PR Campaign - Organic

<\$25,000





# Marketing PR Campaign - Organic

>\$50,000



**FLORIDA'S**  
Great Northwest



# 2026 Melissa Medley Creativity Award

*presented by*

**Mary Swoope, IOM, MEDP**  
**Rural Economic Development Manager**





**Melissa Medley**  
Founder & Principal  
VisionFirst Advisors

*“Life is too short to  
worry, and too long to  
wait”*



# Best in Show

## Melissa Medley

### Creativity Award

**BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD**  
*Palm Beaches*

**QUANTUM BEACH 2025**

Igniting Florida's role in the quantum revolution

October 8, 2025 | Kravis Center, West Palm Beach, FL

# TONI JENNINGS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*presented by*

**Pam Nabors**  
***President & CEO***



**Given annually in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding workforce developer within the state of Florida, the Toni Jennings Workforce Professional of the Year award was first presented in 2007 to honor and recognize the former Lieutenant Governor's exceptional leadership in revamping Florida's workforce system to respond to critical workforce needs and to advance local, regional and state economic development.**

**Toni Jennings  
Workforce  
Development  
Professional  
of the Year**



- 2025 **Pam Nabors**, CareerSource Central Florida
- 2024 **Julia Dattolo**, CareerSource Palm Beach County
- 2023 **Turner Arbour**, Pasco EDC
- 2022 **Stacy Campbell-Domineck**, CareerSource Polk
- 2021 **Rick Beasley**, CareerSource South Florida
- 2019 **Michelle Dennard**, CareerSource Florida
- 2018 **Kim Bodine**, CareerSource Gulf Coast
- 2017 **Kathleen Woodring**, CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion
- 2016 **Lois Scott**, FL Department of Economic Opportunity
- 2015 **Lisa Rice**, CareerSource Brevard
- 2014 **Richard Williams**, CareerSource Chipola

## Legacy Toni Jennings Honorees



# TONI JENNINGS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*2026 Honoree*

**Marci Murphy**  
*Executive Director*



**CareerSource**  
BREVARD FLAGLER VOLUSIA

# EUNICE SULLIVAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*presented by*

**Keith Norden, CEcD, MEDP**  
*President & CEO*



**TEAMVOLUSIA**

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G R E A T E R D A Y T O N A R E G I O N

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E C O N O M I C D E V E L O P M E N T C O R P O R A T I O N

**The Eunice Sullivan Economic Development Professional of the Year award is given annually in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding economic developer within the state of Florida. The award was first given in 1985 and was renamed in 1991 to honor Eunice Sullivan for her dedication and commitment to the economic development profession and the Florida Economic Development Council.**

**Eunice Sullivan  
Economic  
Development  
Professional of  
the Year**



- 2025 **Keith Norden**, Team Volusia
- 2024 **Jeff Hendry**, North Florida EDP
- 2023 **Suzanne Christman**, Pinellas Economic Development
- 2022 **Kelly Smallridge**, BDB of Palm Beach County
- 2021 **Marc Hoenstine**, Duke Energy
- 2019 **Crystal Stiles**, Florida Power & Light Company
- 2018 **Cathy Chambers**, JAXUSA Partnership
- 2017 **Crystal Sircy**, Orlando Economic Partnership
- 2016 **Bob Swindell**, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance
- 2013 **Randy Berridge**, FL High Tech Corridor Council
- 2012 **Pete Tesch**, EDC of St. Lucie County
- 2011 **Lynda Weatherman**, EDC of Florida's Space Coast
- 2010 **Bill McDermott**, Seminole County Economic Development
- 2009 **Ray Gilley**, Metro Orlando EDC

## Legacy Eunice Sullivan Honorees



# EUNICE SULLIVAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

## 2026 Honoree

**Bill Cronin**  
*President & CEO*



**PASCO EDC**  
NORTH TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA®

Placeholder for Bill  
Cronin award  
acceptance video

# CONGRATULATIONS to the IGNITE 2026 HONOREES

**Heather Shubirg, MEDP**

*FEDC Vice Chair of Finance*

*Vice President of Business Development*

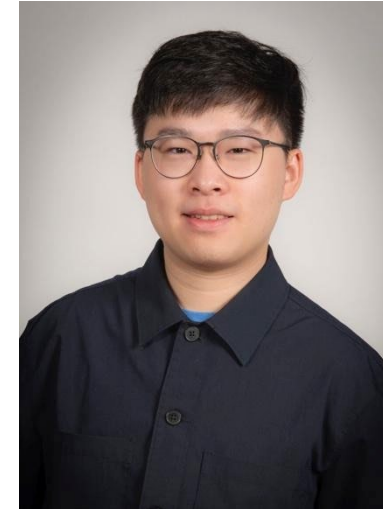


# DAN WEBSTER YOUNG INNOVATORS



**ABIGAIL WAGNER**  
**ORLANDO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

**Dan Webster Young Innovator**



**JACKIE CHANG**  
**SANTA ROSA EDC**

**Dan Webster Young Innovator**



# DEALS OF THE YEAR

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# Best in Show

## Melissa Medley

### Creativity Award

**BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
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*Palm Beaches*

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# EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



**BILL CRONIN**  
**PASCO EDC**

**Eunice Sullivan Economic Development  
Professional of the Year**



**MARCI MURPHY**  
**CAREERSOURCE BFV**

**Toni Jennings Workforce  
Development Professional of the Year**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING  
ILLUMINATING LEADERS!**

