How to Do Business with the Federal Government Seminar
When: Tuesday, March 6; 8:30-10:30 a.m.
Where: Chamber Boardroom
Cost: Free

Power Networking Luncheon
When: Tuesday, March 13; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Where: Holiday Inn-Palm Beach Airport
Cost: $35, members (in advance), $40 after deadline; $45 non-members (in advance), $50 after deadline
Partner: BNI South Florida
Sponsor: Free

Trustee Luncheon
When: Thursday, March 15, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Derek Jeter, Miami Marlins; Kelly Smallridge, President and CEO, Business Development Board; Mark Bannon, Esq., Executive Director, Commission on Ethics of PBC; Justin Hoysradt, Chief Executive Officer, FAU's Public Ethics Academy.

Baseball bash hits it out of the park
More than 200 people attended the Annual Baseball Bash held at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium. Players like Derek Jeter, Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals; Mike Matheny, St. Louis Cardinals; and Bill Pruitt, Boston Red Sox, were on hand to sign autographs and mingle with the audience.

March Breakfast
Forty years ago, Palm Beach County was called a “cultural desert.” Today, it is home to more than 200 cultural and educational organizations that offer more than 42,000 events annually, generating more than $533 million in economic impact and employing more than 14,000 people. They are a cornerstone of our community, attracting audiences, spurring business development, supporting local artists and increasing tourism.

As the county’s population grows, so does the interest in cultural organizations. In fact, every year, cultural organizations make way up the ladder of increasing attendance so that local residents and visitors can continue to appreciate exhibitions, experiences an event, or enjoy a performance.

To date, there are more than 21 cultural expansion deals valued at more than $500 million - planned studies from Harvard. Princeton and his MA in east Asian studies. He received his BA cum laude from the University of Central Florida. In August of 2010, he was appointed Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs and served to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Director of the Office of Management Systems and as EPA’s Associate Administrator. Cromphant coached an all-black championship basketball team. He received his BA cum laude from Princeton and his MA in east Asian studies from Harvard. League Smallridge, CEO and President of Business Development Board, provided an update on corporate relocations and expansions in Palm Beach County at the Chamber’s Breakfast for Members. In her presentation, she announced that Rodwell Collins and Niagara Bottling are two of several new companies relocating to Palm Beach County. She went on to discuss the importance of different industries when prospecting for businesses to relocate to Palm Beach County. A few of these categories include food science/health care, business and financial services, logistics and transportation, and tourism and travel. Smallridge noted that Burnell Work has contributed to the county’s low unemployment rate (currently 3.6 percent). Smallridge also noted that at just over $31,000 per year, Palm Beach County has the lowest median household income in the state of Florida. In response to a question from the audience, Smallridge stated that the BDB has been working with partners in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to bring large companies to the county area. This strategy helped us get onto the short list for the Amazon HQ2 search. With Palm Beach County housing 70 corporate headquarters, the biggest concern for future growth is the lack of prime office space. She also spoke at length about the FAU’s Public Ethics Academy.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Lew Crampton
Lew Crampton has served as President and CEO of the Florida Solar Industries Association. His professional led a successful campaign to amend Florida’s constitution to reduce the property taxes of Florida business and commercial property owners who choose to make improvements in solar energy. He is the graduate of the University of Central Florida.

Justin Hoyoradt
Justin Hoyoradt is the founder and CEO of Vinyasun, a leading provider of solar energy. In addition to overseeing operations and fund development, Hoyoradt oversees the state and local policy initiatives for Vinyasun. He serves on the board of directors of the Florida Solar Industries Association. Hoyoradt previously led a successful campaign to amend Florida’s constitution to reduce the property taxes of Florida business and commercial property owners who choose to make improvements in solar energy. He is a graduate of the University of Central Florida.

SPORTS

Vinyasun's Jamie O'Hara Awarded
Vinyasun’s Jamie O’Hara was honored with the 2018 Hispanic Leader of the Year Award by LatinPlex at the Annual Hispanic Heritage Luncheon on Tuesday, January 23. The award recognizes a Hispanic leader in the local community who has achieved significant success in their professional and civic life.

O’Hara was recognized for her leadership in the energy industry and her commitment to diversity and inclusion. She has played a key role in promoting renewable energy solutions and supporting Hispanic communities in South Florida.

O’Hara is the Chief Financial Officer of Vinyasun, a leading provider of solar energy. Under her leadership, Vinyasun has grown significantly and expanded its footprint in the state of Florida. She has also been an active member of the Hispanic community in South Florida, serving on numerous boards and committees.

O’Hara’s achievement was acknowledged by the Hispanic Business Association of South Florida, which presented the award.

“Jamie is a true leader and a role model for our community,” said John Carey, President and CEO of the Business Development Board. “Her dedication to diversity and inclusion, as well as her commitment to making a positive impact on our community, is truly inspiring.”

O’Hara’s award comes at a time when renewable energy is gaining traction as a viable alternative to traditional fossil fuels. The use of solar energy has the potential to create new jobs and improve the environment.

“Vinyasun is proud to have Jamie as part of our team,” said Justin Hoyoradt, CEO of Vinyasun. “Her leadership and commitment to diversity and inclusion are essential in our efforts to build a sustainable future.”
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SUNDAY

PITBULL • SUBLIME WITH ROME
PARTYNEXTDOOR • CAKE • THIRD EYE BLIND • DNCE
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Beginning this summer, The Kaneohe Center for the Performing Arts, Palm Beach County’s premier center for the arts, will undergo a $40 million renovation with the goal of elevating the customer experience for their more than half-million guests each year. The renovation will add more space and improve traffic flow in, out and around the theater. The renovation will also improve the building’s footprint as well, increasing the lobby by more than 5,000 square feet, providing a more open and spacious area for patrons before performances and during intermissions. The center’s front area will become a pedestrian-friendly plaza, making it easier for people walking over from area hotels and the Palm Beach County Convention Center. Valet service will be moved to the east side of the building with a new covered valet entrance, providing easier access to upper floors and reducing traffic congestion.

Leadership West Palm Beach Focuses on Health & Human Services

The 2018 Class of Leadership West Palm Beach enjoyed Health & Human Service Day at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center, followed by Gulfstream Park at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center, followed by Gulfstream Park at the Senator Philip D. Lewis Center.

The afternoon’s itinerary included visits to The Lord’s Place/Café Joshua, St. Mary’s Medical Center and Palm Beach Children’s Hospital, and Quantum Health & Human Services’ Day chairs, Todd McLeod and Robin Galanti. Special thanks to our Class 2018 sponsors: Sadowski & Associates, LLC; Brightline; and Galanti & Partners.

Dr. Antonio Villamil addresses the 2018 Economic Outlook

Nationalally recognized economist, Dr. J. Antonio Villamil, founder and principal of the Washington Economics Group, Inc., addressed Leadership West Palm Beach’s Economic Outlook Luncheon at the West Palm Beach Marriott. In his presentation, Dr. Villamil highlighted the following positives:

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■ 10 million jobs had been added to the national economy between January 2014 and May 2018.
■ GDP growth had been steadily increasing since 2010■ We were effectively experiencing full employment with the current unemployment rate at 4.1 percent

For 2018, Dr. Villamil expects the unemployment rate to continue trending downward. As the improving economy should result in increased tax revenues for Florida, and we should expect employment growth in some key sectors — construction, wholesale trade, transportation, warehousing, health services, and education. Overall, Dr. Villamil expects the Florida economy to grow, with South Florida growing at a faster rate than the rest of the nation. He also anticipates moderate increases in global economic activity, which will have a positive impact on the national economy.

YPOP Hotspot at Kapow! Noodle Bar

More than 50 young professionals met at Kapow! Noodle Bar on Clematis Street for the February YPOP Hotspot. The Young Professionals of the Palm Beaches meet twice each month at different locations for a networking event.

Our next YPOP event is scheduled for March 28 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Burger! in CityPlace. This event will provide the annual SunFest Battle of the Bands competition. Visit www.palmbeachyop.com to register.

YPOP is a separate membership from the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches. If you are interested in learning more about YPOP, please contact Marissa Kosiec at mkosiec@palmbeaches.org.