

An Update from the Central Florida Development Council

Polk County's Economic Development Partnership

BUSINESS GROWTH

Capital Management HPP has purchased a 20,000 sf building in Bartow for a state-of-the-art, high pressure pasteurization manufacturing facility that kills bacteria in pre-packaged foods. The company will create a minimum of 25 jobs over the next year and will invest approximately \$7 million to upgrade the facility and purchase new equipment and machinery.

GEICO has announced its plans to expand its Lakeland facility by 50,000 sf and also create an additional 500 jobs over the next 3 years.

The CFDC congratulates the **Bartow EDC** and the **Lakeland EDC** for their success and partnership on these projects. We would additionally like to thank the Polk County Board of County Commissioners for their continued support of job growth and creation in Polk County.

AROUND POLK

Polk Goes Global III

The Central Florida Development Council, the Lakeland Area Chamber and the Winter Haven Area Chamber, recently hosted Polk Goes Global III. Keynote speaker, Manny Mencia, Sr. VP for International Trade & Development for Enterprise Florida, challenged Polk businesses to help Polk County move from its current fifth place to fourth in the export ranking of Florida Metropolitan Areas. Polk County exported about \$1.3 billion in 2015, according to Enterprise Florida.

Javier Marin, Director of Business Development & Global Trade at CFDC presented the findings of the recent study of Polk County exports and exporters. Marin and the CFDC strives to promote Polk County as a premier global trade destination, promote the benefits of global trade and leverage partnerships and resources to support global trade.

Firms interested in taking advantage of this initiative may reach Javier Marin at Javier@cfdc.org.





Regional Partnership

As a regional partner with the Orlando Economic Partnership, the Central Florida Development Council was pleased to welcome Tim Giuliani to his new role as President and CEO with the Partnership. Thank you to Florida Polytechnic University and all who attended the welcome reception hosted for Mr. Giuliani.

IN THE NEWS

[Winter Haven, Florida - Engine of the Region](#) [Construction Begins on \\$42 million SunTrax Facility](#) ['There's a World Out There' - Polk Goes Global III](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon., Dec. 4

CFDC Board Meeting
4:00 PM, USAmeriBank, Lakeland

Wed., Dec. 6

CFDC Investor Holiday Party
6:00 PM, Bok Tower, Lake Wales

Thurs., Dec. 14

Competitiveness & Advocacy Committee Meeting
9:00 AM, Citizens Bank & Trust, Bartow

Mon., Jan. 8

CFDC Board Meeting
4:00 PM, Citrus Connection, Lakeland

[**View All Upcoming
Events**](#)