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South Florida Businesses Honored At Annual Disability Awards Ceremony

Broward, Palm Beach County Employers Recognized for Outstanding Hiring Practices

BOCA RATON, Fla. – April 8, 2016 – Today, several businesses from Broward and Palm Beach counties were recognized for their disability friendly practices, including hiring individuals with disabilities and participating in job training programs, during this year’s South Florida Business Leadership Network’s Connections Platinum Awards Breakfast.

The event, which took place at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, honored All-Tag Inc., Artists with Autism Gallery and Gift Boutique, The Autism Channel, The Boca Resort and Club, Cinepolis Movie Theater, Sweet Tomatoes, The Garden Fresh Corp., The Home Depot, Kiddie Academy and Memorial Regional Hospital from Palm Beach County, and SEES Inc. and Walgreens from Broward County.

Guest speakers during the breakfast included Mark Tourangeau, vice president of business management, NextEra Energy Resources, South Region; Tanya Vaughn-Patterson, senior diversity & inclusion consultant, NextEra Energy; and Chris Phillips, diversity specialist, military & disabilities, officer – talent management, PNC Bank.

"Employing the skills and talents of people with disabilities supports our organization’s mission of enhancing the lives of individuals who want to contribute positively to our region’s workforce," said Pamela Toussaint, chair of the South Florida Business Leadership Network. "The businesses honored today are examples of the progress our community has made toward inclusion and diversity, which ultimately leads to embracing the values and abilities of all people."

The Connections Platinum Awards event is part of an annual workshop series that provides information to employers about hiring, retaining and accommodating people with disabilities. This year’s event was presented by CareerSource Broward, CareerSource Palm Beach County, Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, School Board of Broward County, School District of Palm Beach County, Children’s Services Council of Broward County and South Florida Business Leadership Network.

For more information about the Connections Platinum Awards event, contact Julie Kreadle, Disability Program Business Services Manager, CareerSource Broward, at (954) 609-3474 or by email at jkreadle@careersourcebroward.com.

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About CareerSource Broward

CareerSource Broward (CSBD), the administrative entity of the Broward Workforce Development Board, is a federally-funded, locally controlled organization that provides innovative employment solutions and quality workforce services to businesses and individuals in Broward County. These services are delivered through three strategically located career centers, which provide individual assistance with the Employ Florida Marketplace, job placement services, career coaching and other employment-related needs. For more information, please visit www.careersourcebroward.com, [facebook.com/CareerSourceBroward](https://www.facebook.com/CareerSourceBroward) or follow @CareerSourceBD on Twitter.