

GREATER GAINESVILLE

'A Moment in Time'

Gainesville is greater. That's a play on words, sure, and not even a very good one. Yet, there are valid reasons to make that claim, including (but not limited to) location, population, education, health care, community, culture, industry and, perhaps most of all: timing.

Fortuitous timing, as 2022 comes to an end, according to Eric Godet, Sr., president and CEO of the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce.

His words: "We're in a moment in time that's really exciting. A lot of things are coming together in a way that hasn't happened before to tie around opportunity and place."

Florida Trend
CUSTOM CONTENT



PHOTO: LUKE'S MEDIA

Why Here in Greater Gainesville? *Good Question.*

"GAINESVILLE IS A PLACE YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE FOR THE THINGS YOU WANT. GAINESVILLE PROVIDES LARGE-CITY BENEFITS WITHOUT LARGE-CITY PROBLEMS."

JOE LOWRY, JR.
MANAGING PARTNER,
LOWRY FINANCIAL ADVISORS



Just ask Steve Orlando, who was born and raised in Pensacola and arrived on the University of Florida campus in 1984. Then he never really left for long, except to try and become a Navy pilot after graduating in 1986. When his vision didn't measure up, Orlando returned to Gainesville to study journalism at UF, only to leave and return again.

Orlando has been back at UF since 1996 and is now interim vice president for strategic communications and marketing. Also, his wife received her doctorate from UF, and their two children are Gator alumni, too.

"We are a completely invested UF family. I know it, and I'm totally proud of it. ... I don't intend to ever leave; I love Gainesville," Orlando asserts, pointing to the city's sense of community as he adds, "My love for the community goes way beyond the University of Florida. It is a wonderful place to raise a family. You get the benefits of a small-town feel with all the benefits of a university and all the culture that comes with it."

Joe Lowry, Jr., originally from Miami, lived in Gainesville since he was 10, in the "boonies" of Jonesville in western Alachua County. He never expected to leave town for college, but when the time came he headed far away to Brigham Young University in Utah. There, following a BYU mission and school, he gained a perspective about life that drew him back

to Gainesville. Gone six years, he returned to his hometown in 2003.

Today, his office of Lowry Financial Advisors is in Jonesville, now much more densely populated.

"I've never regretted coming back," comments Lowry, citing a city that is beautiful, boasts a thriving university and has a location he describes as a geographical oddity.

"Gainesville is two hours from everywhere," he says. "Everything you need, if it's not in Gainesville, it's relatively accessible. ... But increasingly, Gainesville is a place you don't have to leave for the things you want. Gainesville provides large-city benefits without large-city problems."

Growing up in Jacksonville, Stephanie Bailes saw UF as the "only place I wanted to go" for college, but she "never thought I would stay in Gainesville." She loved her college experience but wanted more as an adult.

Time in Atlanta and Washington, D.C., changed that view. Owning a small business and with a husband and two children, she again wanted something more and different. That brought her back to Gainesville.

"WE WERE VERY OBJECTIVE, AND GAINESVILLE REALLY CHECKED OFF ALL THE BOXES FOR US."

STEPHANIE BAILES
CEO, CADE MUSEUM FOR
CREATIVITY AND INVENTION



"We could have moved anywhere in the country," says Bailes, who joined Gainesville's Cade Museum in 2017 and is now the CEO. "As we started looking at a lot of cities in the Southeast, Gainesville kept popping up," noting its size, proximity to water, culture, health care, schools, community spirit and cost of living. "We were very objective, and Gainesville really checked off all the boxes for us."

Juan Segarra arrived in Gainesville to study business at UF in 1998 and was quickly sold on the city. He came from Tampa, spent time in Orlando, and his family was from Puerto Rico. Even as a student, he wanted to feel "connected" and "grounded somewhere." He got it in Gainesville.

"I hadn't been around that much community my whole life. ... You truly get a sense of what home is all about," he says.

Home now includes a wife who also graduated from UF and four young children, along with Foresight Construction Group, where he is president and CEO. The company serves government, institutional, health care and commercial clients throughout the Southeast and Caribbean. It could have been headquartered anywhere. Segarra wanted Gainesville.

"To me, the value of community is just higher than the value of place, because I could go to many places," he says. "For us, to be able to do business and do things in other markets and live here, and have that sense of community here, is of higher value. ... It would take a lot for me to leave."



JUAN SEGARRA
PRESIDENT/CEO, FORESIGHT
CONSTRUCTION GROUP

"FOR US, TO BE ABLE TO DO BUSINESS AND DO THINGS IN OTHER MARKETS AND LIVE HERE, AND HAVE THAT SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE, IS OF HIGHER VALUE. ... IT WOULD TAKE A LOT FOR ME TO LEAVE."

2020-2025 TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Distribution and Trade

- Distribution Centers
- Warehouses
- Wholesale
- Freight Trucking

Business Support Services

- Administrative
- Call Centers
- Payroll Facilitation
- Insurance

Agriculture Science and Technology

- Research and Development
- Products
- Technologies
- Clean Tech Manufacturing

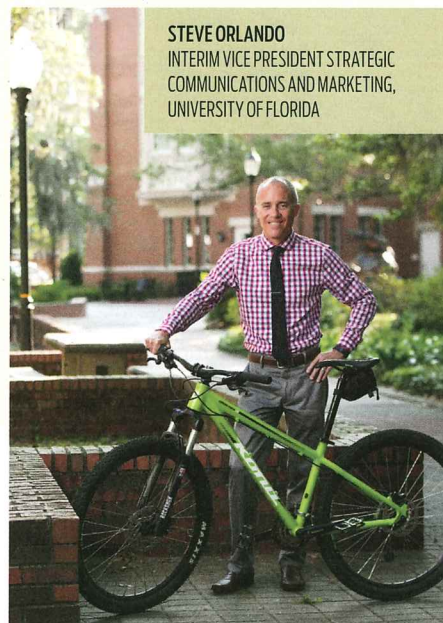
Human Life Sciences

- Research and Development
- Biotechnology
- Medical Devices
- Manufacturing
- Products and Treatment
- Pharmaceuticals

Digital Technology

- Software Development
- Publishing
- Computer Systems
- Telecommunications
- Data Processing
- Hosting and Storage

SOURCE: COLLABORATE 2025/GREATER GAINESVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



STEVE ORLANDO
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING,
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

GREATER GAINESVILLE

Located in North Central Florida, the Gainesville MSA predominantly consists of Alachua County (969 square miles), along with Gilchrist County (355 square miles), with a population of approximately 340,000 people. However, counting the 11 nearby counties, the population swells to more than 2 million and extends to approximately 4.5 million within the entire North Central Florida region.

Greater Gainesville contains nine cities and towns: Alachua, Archer, Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, LaCrosse, Micanopy, Newberry and Waldo. Of course, Gainesville — serving as an employment and retail hub for Alachua County and the adjacent counties, and as home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College — is the region's economic, cultural and educational nucleus.



GAINESVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT OPERATES DAILY DEPARTURES ON AMERICAN AIRLINES AND DELTA WITH NONSTOP SERVICE TO ATLANTA, CHARLOTTE, DALLAS-FORT WORTH AND MIAMI INTERNATIONAL HUBS.

Airport Preparing for Ascension

Let's just say, historically speaking about the highways through Greater Gainesville, there is a lot of traffic, with no way around it — wordplay intended.

On I-75, overall traffic volumes reach 68,500 vehicles per day south of State Road 222 near northern Gainesville, and they increase to more than 80,000 just past State Road 200 in Ocala, south of Gainesville, according to Florida Department of Transportation data. That's busy.

The good news is the cities of Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville can be reached within a two-hour drive, while St. Augustine, Ocala and Lake City are an hour away. Also, within the Gainesville city limits, the RTS public bus system has 40 city routes on local roads, among others.

Plus, Amtrak offers train-to-bus passenger service direct to downtown Gainesville.

In terms of freight transportation, CSX Transportation provides Gainesville with daily service, and the Jacksonville Port Authority isn't far at 80 miles away.

Maybe the best news comes from the Gainesville Regional Airport, which contributes an annual economic impact of \$374 million to North Central Florida.

"People have experienced us and discovered us," says Allan Penksa, the airport's CEO, referring to August's passenger levels that were about 2.5% above the August 2019 totals.

Not coincidentally, in July 2021 a 15,200-square-foot, two-gate passenger terminal expansion and improvement project was completed. The expanded terminal provides a variety of passenger amenities and services to accommodate increased passenger traffic and demand.

Also in the works are expanded airline offices and baggage handling system, a multimodal garage/taxi/bus facility and a major taxiway improvement project, among other construction activity in various stages.

"I'm not saying if we build it, they will come. But we really needed to be prepared as we grow in the future, to have better facilities for that third and fourth airline," Penksa adds.

"We have more going on right now than we ever have, frankly."



Life is great in GREATER GAINESVILLE



Whether you are starting a business or starting a family, the Greater Gainesville region has it all: outstanding healthcare, a robust and diverse arts community, and astounding natural beauty to enjoy.

Touted as one of the top places to live in the country, Gainesville and the surrounding areas offer idyllic small town feel while still providing state-of-the-art resources. Home to the University of Florida, ranked #5 in the nation for public research schools, our region is host to cutting edge computer technology companies as well as start-ups, manufacturing, and biotechnology innovators who are making global impacts.

Find out exactly why *life is great in Greater Gainesville* at gainesvillechamber.com



GREATER GAINESVILLE CHAMBER

MAJOR CITIES NEAR GAINESVILLE

- 62 miles to Jacksonville
- 96 miles to Orlando
- 118 miles to Tampa
- 298 miles to Miami
- 309 miles to Atlanta



Spirit of Collaboration

Perhaps nowhere is Greater Gainesville's collaboration more apparent than with this fact: While University of Florida is a clear economic force throughout the region — to the tune of a \$1.12 billion annual impact — its impact is even more potent as a community collaborator.

Consider the UF Office of Collaborative Initiatives, which is a telling name in itself. Among numerous other activities, concerted work is underway on Engage Florida, a "think and do tank" that unites UF students with local leaders, community organizations, essential workers, educational institutions and nonprofits across Gainesville. Centered on the city's most complex challenges, partnerships are created to help solve problems. The idea is to establish "community labs" that harness skills, knowledge and creativity to build long-term relationships and sustainable initiatives that make positive impacts on Gainesville and beyond.

Similarly, there's the Partnership for Reimagining Gainesville (PRG), representing an evolution of UF's partnership with the city of Gainesville. PRG seeks to expand equity and inclusion to the partnership by shifting the focus of collaboration toward working with community members and organizations, and actively identifying and supporting impact-focused ideas, projects and initiatives that are driven by community needs.

Cynthia Curry, interim city manager for Gainesville, is especially appreciative of the collaboration that resulted in Alachua County and the city of Gainesville approving funding for a new urgent care health center to be built in East Gainesville. The partnership also involves UF Health Shands Hospital. The facility is expected to open in 2023.



FOUNDED IN 2016, GAINESVILLE BLACK PROFESSIONALS HAS MORE THAN 4,500 MEMBERS AND EVERY YEAR PARTNERS WITH SANTA FE COLLEGE TO PRESENT THE BLACK PROFESSIONALS EXPO.

"That kind of collaboration happened!" Curry emphasizes, citing the great need for the facility on the eastside, where development occurs less often than in other areas of the city.

"The county realizes we can't do it alone; we have to partner," comments Carl Smart, Alachua County's deputy manager of Community & Strategic Initiatives. Among other areas, Smart oversees one of the county's newest departments — Sustainability, Equity, Economic and Strategic Development.

For Virginia Grant, the region's spirit of collaboration has given life to Gainesville Black Professionals, a group she founded in 2016. The mission is to increase communication, joint effort and networking among professionals, entrepreneurs and business owners while also increasing access to nonprofit boards. In the past two years, roughly 25 of the group's members have joined nonprofit boards.

"I wanted to create that space where we could come together, network, collaborate," describes Grant. "This was a vision that I had that I shared with the community, and the community said, 'Yeah I like that too.'"

In turn, such willingness to work together not only touches the

heart, but also revs the economic engine on multiple fronts, according to Eric Godet, Sr., president and CEO of the Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce.

"We've done a great job of diversifying our economy, but our challenge is making sure we aren't just checking the boxes in terms of number of jobs, quick-growth companies, capital investment. How do we really lift our whole community together?"



WE'VE DONE A GREAT JOB OF DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY, BUT OUR CHALLENGE IS MAKING SURE WE AREN'T JUST CHECKING THE BOXES IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF JOBS, QUICK-GROWTH COMPANIES, CAPITAL INVESTMENT. HOW DO WE REALLY LIFT OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY TOGETHER?"



ERIC GODET, SR.
PRESIDENT/CEO, GREATER
GAINESVILLE CHAMBER OF
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WITH 230 COURSES IN AI AND DATA SCIENCE, ATTRACTING MORE THAN 6,000 STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA RECENTLY HAS HIRED ACROSS THE INSTITUTION SOME 130 FACULTY WHO SPECIALIZE IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE — FROM THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS TO THE INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.

Greater (Gainesville) Innovation and Access in Education

By virtue of the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, approximately 75,000 college students reside in Gainesville. That's a relatively well-known fact.

Similarly, top rankings are somewhat common knowledge, with UF maintaining lofty national status for academics, and SFC being recognized as among the nation's best community colleges.

Yet, what about the initials AI and STEM, as well as research to fuel economic impact and teaching innovation to broaden student access? They seem to be very much the story these days.

At UF, AI — as in artificial intelligence — is virtually everywhere, from courses for students to research faculty conduct and beyond. In essence, with its AI Across the Curriculum, UF is making artificial intelligence the centerpiece of a major, long-term initiative that is combining research infrastructure, research activity and a transformational approach to curriculum study.

Business partnerships have occurred, too, as have collaborations like the one with Nvidia, a pioneer in accelerated computing, which gifted UF the

fastest AI supercomputer at a higher education institution nationwide — the HiPerGator AI. Nvidia also created an AI technology center at UF, embedding its engineers among faculty to assist their research work.

UF is spreading its influence, in a good way, to the point where university President W. Kent Fuchs comments, "The University of Florida is located in Gainesville. We do things all over the place, but this is our home; this is our heart. This community is important to us."

Fuchs announced plans to retire by year's end, but not before he's seen student applications double in his eight years in office, all the while putting increased emphasis on graduate programs and research.

Regarding research, the big news is that, for the first time, UF surpassed \$1 billion in research expenditures during fiscal-year 2022, a number that represents approximately 40% of the State University System of Florida's total research. UF joined only about 15 public universities around the country in surpassing \$1 billion.

Almost half of the research occurred in the six colleges of UF Health, led by the College of Medicine in Gainesville

and Jacksonville with \$347 million; the College of Public Health & Health Professions with \$34.5 million; the College of Veterinary Medicine with \$32.1 million; the College of Pharmacy with \$31.4 million; the College of Dentistry with \$17.2 million; and the College of Nursing with \$5 million.

One more bit of UF news: Its eight-year Go Greater campaign, which officially ends at the close of 2022, raised more than \$4.5 billion. The original campaign goal was \$3 billion.

SFC, with its 175-acre main Northwest Campus in Gainesville, has six centers across the region, encompassing the arts and sciences and the technology and applied sciences — mostly in two-year degrees and certificates — along with bachelor's degrees.

Emblematic of its success, SFC won the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence by the Aspen Institute, topping more than 1,000 institutions nationwide. The award is based on student academic achievement, degree and college completion, job placement, and minority and low-income student accomplishment. SFC remains highly ranked.

Not coincidentally, SFC focuses on access to education, workforce development and innovation. In August, at SFC's Fall Convocation to open the 2022-2023 academic year, SFC President Paul Broadie II called for a "Year of Innovation" and challenged his

college community to be "innovative in teaching and learning strategies, utilizing new technology and evolving to meet the needs of today's students."

Additionally, SFC has been a steadfast champion of education as a way of providing social and economic mobility, while also developing partnerships in the public and private sector to promote a college-going culture.

One example of those strategic priorities is a new charter school centered on Career and Technical Education programs in health sciences and information technology, the Academy of Science and Technology.

"This school enables us to expose high school students to opportunities in high-wage career fields in health and computer sciences," says Broadie, adding, the school "will be able to transform lives, create opportunities



BASED ON THEIR CHOSEN DEGREE PATH, SANTA FE COLLEGE STUDENTS CAN GET HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND CAN TRANSFER TO ANOTHER UNIVERSITY, EARN THEIR ASSOCIATE DEGREE, PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION OR CONTINUE TOWARD THEIR BACHELOR'S AT SFC.

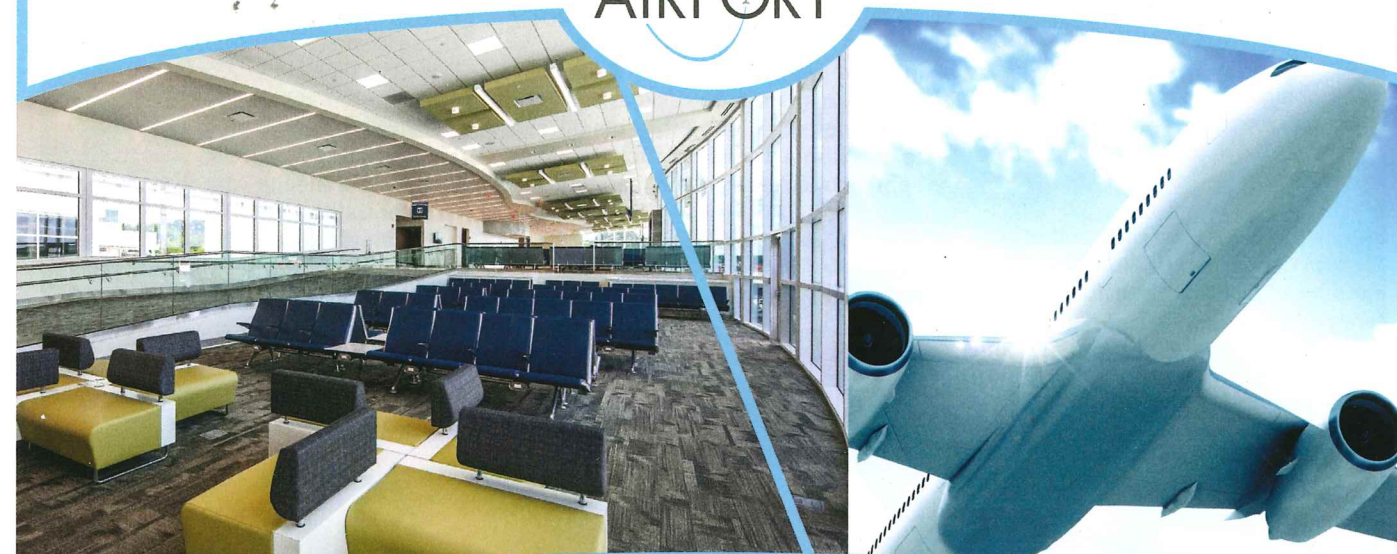
for social and economic mobility, and shatter equity gaps."

SFC plans to start with a class of 75 ninth-grade students and add more cohorts each year, with a total expected enrollment of approximately 300 students by fall 2026.

Upon graduation, at no cost to themselves or their families, students will have earned their high school diploma, an Associate in Science degree in one of four tracks offered (biotechnology, surgical technology, computer information technology and information technology security), and two industry-recognized certifications.

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'Powerful Binding Force'

Is the story of UF Health — the university's academic health center — a story of education, economic development or health care? Dr. David Nelson is quick with an answer.

"It emanates out of health care," he says.

Nelson then describes the mission of UF as a land grant institution and its core mission related to medicine: "It's really about bringing research and advances in care to a broader population around the state."

That influence is broadening in 2022.

For starters, UF Health's "powerful binding force," as Nelson calls it, consists of a 30,000-plus workforce providing patient care and related research. Annually, UF Health contributes more than \$4.6 billion to Florida's overall economy. The flagship is UF Health Shands Hospital, with 14 adult and pediatric specialties ranked among the nation's elite.

Additionally, that binding force is spreading to new areas of care and in new places, such as South Florida, far from Gainesville.

In June 2022, for example, Jupiter Medical Center and UF Health announced plans to "transform health care delivery, research and education in Palm Beach and Martin counties and surrounding communities," according to a press release. The relationship would "advance the organizations' complementary missions of providing the best of academic and community medicine."

Together, Jupiter Medical Center and UF Health plan the development of jointly owned and operated clinical facilities in the region, and to establish novel clinical and hospital programs and service lines, among other efforts.



UF HEALTH CONSISTS OF SIX COLLEGES, 10 PRIMARY RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES, AND 10 HOSPITALS — INCLUDING TWO TEACHING HOSPITALS AND FIVE SPECIALTY HOSPITALS.

The partnerships is the latest in a series of new ventures for UF Health in South Florida. Earlier in 2022, the Florida campus of Scripps Research integrated with UF and UF Health to become UF Scripps Biomedical Research, with a goal of accelerating the pace of health care discoveries. UF also is working with Palm Beach County and the city of West Palm Beach to explore a downtown campus featuring an array of graduate programs in artificial intelligence, financial services and financial technology.

Artificial intelligence, in particular, is a UF Health point of emphasis. Actually, it's an emphasis of the entire university with its AI Across the Curriculum initiative, which features artificial intelligence in all of its 16 colleges as the centerpiece of a long-term commitment to establish a transformational approach to research and learning.

While UF Health's regional and statewide footprint continues to expand, Greater Gainesville also boasts

strength elsewhere, with much of the activity happening at HCA North Florida Regional Medical Center. The 510-bed, full-service medical and surgical acute care center is located 3.5 miles from the UF campus.

In September 2022, North Florida Regional received important accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. A month earlier, North Florida Regional announced its status as a 2022 5-Star recipient for OB-GYN services, as recognized by Healthgrades, ranking the hospital among the national leaders in such services. In July, North Florida Regional received the American Heart Association's GoldPlus Get With The Guidelines - Stroke quality achievement award.

Not coincidentally, Nelson has this to say about health care throughout Greater Gainesville: "That's really why Gainesville will always retain its role as the place where innovation is developed and cultivated."



IN JULY 2022, NORTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PERFORMED ITS FIRST ENDOSCOPIC SLEEVE GASTROPLASTY PROCEDURE, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR SURGERY WHICH APPEALS TO PATIENTS BECAUSE OF ITS REDUCED RISK COMPONENT.

Spring Photo by John Moran | Swamptail Farm Dinner Courtesy of MAVEN Photo & Video | Drink Gainesville Beer Courtesy of Swamp Head Brewery

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Building for Biotech

Commercial real estate? Sure, activity abounds. Just drive on any of I-75's primary Gainesville exits.

Yet, here, the name more aptly should be "tech real estate" or even "biotech real estate."

That's because billions of dollars of research and subsequent commercialization, mostly from UF but also from Santa Fe College, have created an ecosystem that has taken a life (sciences) of its own. UF, for example, is not only a top-five public university it is also ranked first nationwide for technology transfer for economic return.

Ask Brian Crawford, CEO of Concept Companies, a national developer with a broad portfolio of projects, largely biotech, based in Gainesville.

Crawford cites nationally elite tech clusters in major metropolitan areas, and adds, there isn't a cluster in the U.S. like the one we have here. Our cluster is due to a very unique sense of place and ecosystem, and that really is what helps it to thrive."

Two districts define that status, the Progress District and the Innovation District. The Progress District in Alachua consists of approximately 205 acres, where some 35 companies employ more than 1,100 people. The district has established areas such as Foundation Park, Copeland Park and Progress Park, which attract life sciences companies by virtue of its central location and proximity to UF and Santa Fe College.

The Progress District also includes two highly successful incubators, UF Innovate I Accelerate at Sid Martin Biotech and the Santa Fe College Perry Center, along with Momentum Labs, which will provide host services to help companies with emerging technologies grow, similar to traditional incubators.



AT UF INNOVATE, SID MARTIN CLIENT ALCYONE THERAPEUTICS IS A BIOTECH FIRM DEVELOPING GENE-BASED THERAPIES FOR COMPLEX NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

The Innovation District sits on roughly 20 acres next to UF Innovate, with more than 1.5 million square feet planned for development. A 75,000-square-foot technology building is currently under development. The Innovation District provides a startup home for entrepreneurs and other small tech businesses.

Regardless of sector, Juan Segarra, president and CEO of Foresight Construction Group, sees commercial growth across the region and for his company, which provides construction management, general contracting and design-build services. "I sense the appetite for growth in our market to where some of the amenities that we have traditionally lacked are starting to show up through development and people moving to town," says Segarra. "Increasingly, you find people wanting to advance where we are as a community. And that, to me, is attractive — to be part of something that's growing."

Also notably, developer Mitch Glaeser sees a nuanced change, one that is helping to shape his latest project. San Felasco Tech City in Alachua, cofounded by Glaeser, CEO of Emory Group Companies, and Rich Blaser, CEO of Infinite Energy, has big plans. The development combines 270,000 square feet of tech space with a café, brewery and preschool, along with housing and tech space, adjacent to

San Felasco Hammock, a 7,000-acre nature preserve.

There, true office space is making a comeback, according to Glaeser, who comments: "I've had so many people literally walk through my front door with their hair on fire, asking about having small spaces available. I think working from home has caught up to a lot of people. And you're seeing a lot of breakout of that."

Meanwhile, land-use attorney Patrice Boyes of Patrice Boyes P.A. points to commercial development that is following demographics. "We're starting to see interest in retailers and restaurants that normally you would have to go to Ocala and Orlando to find," she says. "That's the next frontier for Gainesville and this area of the state."



SAN FELASCO TECH CITY IS THE FASTEST GROWING TECH COMMUNITY IN NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA, HOUSING 47 STARTUP AND ENTREPRENEUR BUSINESSES IN THREE YEARS.

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CareerSource North Central Florida is an excellent resource for businesses and job-seekers alike.

The continuing demand for local and regional workforce skills has been an ongoing point of discussion for many employers across the nation. Locally, CareerSource North Central Florida (CSNCFL) is a great resource for businesses looking to offer customized training and apprenticeships to grow current employees' talent.

CSNCFL provides Worksite Programs that enable businesses to upskill their current employees, affordably train new employees, and provide opportunities to individuals with barriers to employment. Investing and prioritizing employee education helps businesses succeed and increases employee retention while providing valuable experiences for new hires.

Local businesses wanting to develop a staff curriculum and training can utilize CSNCFL's Business Development Manager to create a high-level liaison between training providers, job sites, and employers. Employers can also host or participate in job fairs and recruitment events—both virtually and in-person—through CSNCFL to expand their network.

"Other programs, like Youth Work Experience (WEX), Employed Worker Trainings (EWT), and Skillbridge: Veteran Employment Transition, help further employees' education and bring skilled workers into their job pools," said Phyllis Marty, Chief Executive Officer at CSNCFL.



Increasing Accessibility to Local Resources for Under-employed and Unemployed Citizens

According to Anna Mendoza, Director of Operations at CSNCFL, "Career Services helps not only businesses but also individuals looking for new employment."

Staff at CSNCFL help job seekers create a career plan, search for local and regional jobs, expand their English language skills, further their education and on-the-job training opportunities, and more. In addition, CSNCFL is always reaching out to community partners and businesses to get the latest updates about who is hiring and connects businesses with job seekers on a weekly basis.

CareerSource North Central Florida partners with entities such as the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, North Florida Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe College, and the University of Florida to grow the local job market by bringing resources to businesses, employees, under- and unemployed individuals.



Get In Touch

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Community Threads

As Greater Gainesville evolves and matures on multiple fronts, layers of philanthropic fabric also are being sewn.

"It's been amazing to watch the philanthropic growth in this community," says Barzella Papa, president of the Community Foundation of North Central Florida for 16 years and a resident of Gainesville since 1999. "We've seen great strides in organizations coming together."

Whereas 16 years ago the Community Foundation averaged about \$600,000 per year in charitable contributions, that figure now is \$6 million, while the total in planned gifts is approaching the \$30 million mark.

Much of the credit should go to Papa and the foundation, whose board of directors is filled with area leaders. In essence, the foundation is the thread that ties together the community's charitable giving, which in turn helps support local organizations. In addition, the foundation operates the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, providing other resources such as operational expertise.

The University of Florida Campaign for Charities, an employee-giving initiative, is another example of "community."



For the past 15 years, UF employees have given nearly \$1 million annually to charities serving the region. The total of agencies now numbers 97.

Aspirations have risen a notch or three among area organizations, according to Stephanie Bailes of the Cade Museum. "Every organization that's in my sphere, we all have goals, and the goals are world class," she says. "I see that as a defining characteristic of Gainesville. You don't see a 'halfway.' It's 'We're going, and we're going to be excellent. And there is no other option.'"

Clay Martin, an attorney with Folds & Walker, talks about the need for continued attention on all of Greater Gainesville, not just the city — to help patch challenges.

"As much as we talk about the great things going on in this community, in Greater Gainesville and Alachua

County, we can't lose sight that there are some communities out there that are struggling to avoid being left behind," Martin says. "We've got to find a way to make sure that those communities are not left behind in our county."

The Children's Trust of Alachua County exemplifies an extension of that thinking. The idea behind the Children's Trust, dating back two decades, essentially asked "How can more be done by the community to help children?" It began as a grassroots movement made up of parents, grandparents, child advocates and local activists.

More nurturing is notable at CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, active in Gainesville since 1970, with all programs falling under the umbrella of the organization's mission statement, "Strengthening Communities by Building Strong Families." The focus is on prevention, counseling and youth programs.

"We don't have bad kids," asserts Phil Kabler, who became CEO in July 2022. "We have kids in bad circumstances that we're working at prevention. And, if we do that right, we can position back into engagement in the school and back into engagement in the community and the workforce."

The approach is emblematic of a region that seemingly — and seamlessly — is tying together.

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With an expansive network across the Sunshine State, HCA Florida Healthcare is committed to caring for the growing needs of our communities by showing up with advanced technologies, innovative treatments, compassionate caregivers and top healthcare experts.

Next year, HCA Florida North Florida Hospital will celebrate 50 years of Caring Like Family, and we look forward to celebrating with our community throughout 2023.

HCA Florida Gainesville Emergency, part of HCA Florida North Florida Hospital, will also open in 2023 to provide emergency services to southwest Gainesville. In the years to follow, this free-standing emergency room will undergo significant investment to become HCA Florida Gainesville Hospital, a new full-service, 90-bed hospital bringing additional healthcare services and careers to the region.



Learn more at HCAFloridaHealthcare.com



WE CAN'T LOSE SIGHT THAT THERE ARE SOME COMMUNITIES OUT THERE THAT ARE STRUGGLING TO AVOID BEING LEFT BEHIND. WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT THOSE COMMUNITIES ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND IN OUR COUNTY."



CLAY MARTIN
ATTORNEY,
FOLDS & WALKER

People to know

Interested in developing community relationships or new ventures?
Get to know these movers and shakers in Greater Gainesville.

Shane Andrew
Superintendent, Alachua County Public Schools



J. Scott Angle
Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, UF/IFAS

Stephanie Bailes
CEO, Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention



Michael Beard
President, Elevated Design & Construction



Rich Blaser
Co-Founder & Co-CEO, Infinite Energy; Partner, San Felasco Tech City

Aaron Bosshardt
Owner, Bosshardt Realty Services

Patrice Boyes
Principal and Founder, Patrice Boyes P.A.



Paul Broadie II
President, Santa Fe College

Dante Buckley
MS&T Manager, Manufacturing Readiness, Resilience Alachua

Joleen Cacciatore Miller
Executive Director, Gainesville Sports Commission



Mary Chance
President & CEO, Consortium of Florida Education Foundations

Lee Anne Chesterfield
Director, Harn Museum of Art

Brian Crawford
CEO, Concept Companies



Cynthia W. Curry
Interim City Manager, City of Gainesville

Mike DaRoza
City Manager, City of Alachua

Jennifer Denault
Marketing Director, Scorpio Corporation



Rose Fagler
Economic Development Manager, Weyerhaeuser

Ian Fletcher
COO, Greater Gainesville Chamber



Ryan Frankel
President, Frankel Agency

Ken Fuchs
President, University of Florida

Mitch Glaeser
Co-Founder, San Felasco Tech City

Eric Godet, Sr.
President & CEO, Greater Gainesville Chamber of Commerce



Virginia Grant
Executive Director, Gainesville Black Professionals

Kevin Holmes
CEO, Creative Industrial Solutions

Jessica Hurov
Tourism Development Manager, Visit Gainesville, Alachua County

Eric Johnson
Sr. Vice President, Chief Actuary, AvMed

Douglas S. Jones
Director and Professor, Florida Museum of Natural History

Brian Jose
Director, University of Florida Performing Arts

Mark Kaplan
Vice President for Government and Community Relations, University of Florida

C. Eric Lawson
CEO, HCA Florida North Florida Hospital

Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager, Alachua County



Rupa S. Lloyd
Shareholder, GrayRobinson, P.A.

Joe Lowry, Jr.
Managing Partner, Lowry Financial Advisors

Clay Martin
Attorney, Folds & Walker



Phyllis Marty
CEO, CareerSource North Central Florida

Robert McDaniel
President, Seaside Bank and Trust

Bryan McDonald
President & CEO, Water & Air Research



Dr. David Nelson
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, University of Florida; President, UF Health

Mike New
City Manager, City of Newberry



Suzanne Norris
Florida Market President, Millennium Bank of Florida



David P. Norton
Vice President for Research, University of Florida

Jim O'Connell
Assistant Vice President for Technology Commercialization, University of Florida

Ivan Oelrich
President/Principal, Oelrich Construction

Steve Orlando
Interim Vice President for Strategic Communications and Marketing, University of Florida



Barzella Papa
President & CEO, Community Foundation of North Central Florida

James Parrish
Owner, Coldwell Banker M.M. Parrish Realtors

Allan Penksa
CEO, Gainesville Regional Airport



Kristen Rabell
Broker-Owner, Rabell Realty Group

Sergio Reyes
President, Eda Consultants

John Roberts
SVP/Commercial Team Lead, SouthState Bank

John Roscow, IV
Attorney, Holden, Roscow & Caedington, PL



Ben Sasse
President-Elect, University of Florida



Lawrence Schreiber
President & CEO, SantaFe HealthCare

Juan Segarra
President & CEO, Foresight Construction Group

Bryan Thomas
Director, City of Newberry

Jon C. Thomas II
Associate, Colliers International

Bruce Thompson
Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Exactech

Ellen Vause
City Manager, City of Hawthorne



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