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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Indian River Chamber Partners with FL Virtual Entrepreneur Center**  
***Helping Local Entrepreneurs Gain Visibility, Connect To Resources***

**Vero Beach, Florida.** – As an entrepreneur, one of the most common challenges is finding the right resources to start, grow or relocate a business. Though it can be difficult to apply for licenses, secure financing, connect with other entrepreneurs or gain publicity, those challenges are now easier, thanks to the Florida High Tech Corridor Council's Florida Virtual Entrepreneur Center at [www.flvec.com](http://www.flvec.com).

The FLVEC website offers business owners in Indian River County access to a curated database of local and statewide resources, including help with licenses, business mentoring and coaching, networking, workshops, venture capital and much more.

Another benefit of the site is the ability for entrepreneurs to gain publicity for their businesses and to learn about and connect with other local entrepreneurs – a true B2B connection. FLVEC promotes area entrepreneurs by publishing profile articles about them online complete with photos and links back to their website and social media accounts. To start, entrepreneurs can simply create a free profile on FLVEC.com. They will then be contacted to complete the profile process.

Many entrepreneurs value the visibility that their profile on the FLVEC website provides. In addition to raising entrepreneurs' visibility, FLVEC profiles connect entrepreneurs with each other leading to new business and mentoring opportunities.

"FLVEC is a unique organization that does a great job connecting business owners, entrepreneurs and other business minded people in one cohesive environment," said Ron Dichter of [Blue Dog Business Services](#) in Indian River County. "I look forward to seeing their network continue to expand throughout the coming years."

“FLVEC has been focused on entrepreneurs since day one,” said Michael Zaharios, FLVEC Director and himself an entrepreneur. “We take a laser-focused approach on what entrepreneurs need and want and I’m proud to partner with the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development office and to connect people throughout the state and promote Florida entrepreneurs.”

Serving all 67 counties in Florida, FLVEC is made possible by the [Florida High Tech Corridor Council](#) and sponsors across the state, including Indian River County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development office.

“In Indian River County, well over 90% of our businesses are considered small – they are the backbone of our local economy. We encourage our small-business owners and entrepreneurs to take advantage of the wealth of resources and support available to them,” said Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director with the Chamber. “The Chamber’s Economic Development office partners with FLVEC to help make that connection. I’m excited that several of our local entrepreneurs are already featured on the site! We want to ensure that all entrepreneurs and start-up businesses know that Indian River County is a great place grow their business – and we can help them do it.”

To view the website and explore the resources available to Indian River County business owners, visit [www.FLVEC.com](http://www.FLVEC.com) and [www.FLVEC.com/indianriver](http://www.FLVEC.com/indianriver), or click on the “Virtual Entrepreneur” icon on the home page of Chamber’s economic development website, [www.indianrivered.com](http://www.indianrivered.com).

### **About the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce**

The [Indian River Chamber](#) is the County’s designated agency for economic development. The Chamber supports all economic development efforts providing additional private sector funds and resources, as well as overhead for programs and services. For more information about locating or expanding your business in Indian River County, call Helene Caseltine at 772-567-3491 or email her: [directored@indianriverchamber.com](mailto:directored@indianriverchamber.com).

### **About The Florida High Tech Corridor Council**

The Corridor Council is an economic development initiative of the University of Central Florida (UCF), the University of South Florida (USF) and the University of Florida (UF). The mission of The Corridor is to grow high tech industry and innovation through partnerships that support research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship.

A partnership involving more than 25 local and regional economic development organizations (EDOs), 14 state/community colleges and 12 CareerSource boards, The

Corridor is co-chaired by the presidents of UCF, USF and UF. The Corridor includes the presidents of two state colleges, the president of the Florida Institute of Technology and representatives of high tech industry.

The unique partnership has resulted in a strategic approach to high tech economic development that supports matching funds research, marketing, workforce development and entrepreneurship leveraging governmental, EDO and corporate budgets on a regional rather than local basis.

For more information, visit [www.floridahightech.com](http://www.floridahightech.com).