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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 25, 2016**

**Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director**

### **LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HOST SITE CONSULTANTS**

#### ***Enterprise FL Grapefruit League Tour Included Research Coast Region***

Vero Beach, FL – The partners of Florida’s Research Coast Economic Development Coalition, including the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, recently hosted a group of site location consultants as part of Enterprise Florida’s “Grapefruit League Tour.” Enterprise Florida, Inc. is the state’s public-private organization that promotes Florida domestically and internationally for targeted business recruitment and expansion.

Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director with the Chamber, joined her colleagues from the region in organizing and hosting consultants from around the country at local events to familiarize them with the area’s attributes. “Site consultants are the ‘gate keepers’, representing companies that are considering sites to relocate or expand – and we want to be sure [Indian River County](#) and the entire Research Coast region is on their radars,” explains Caseltine. She adds, “Enterprise FL provides these types of opportunities for local economic development partners to help us build and strengthen relationships with site consultants.” [Enterprise FL](#) recognizes the [Indian River Chamber](#) as a primary partner and stakeholder in the state’s business recruitment and expansion efforts.

As part of the Florida Grapefruit League Tour, Enterprise FL invites site selectors to Florida each March to attend Spring Training games. The events provide a more informal setting in which local “Team Florida” partners can interact with the consultants. This year’s event included a Mets game at [Tradition Field](#) in Port St. Lucie, a reception and dinner at the [Elliott Museum](#) in Stuart, and breakfast at [Historic Dodgertown](#) in Vero Beach. Consultants were impressed with what the region has to offer their clients, and how well the local economic developers work together.

Pete Tesch, Chairman of Florida's Research Coast Coalition and President of the [St. Lucie EDC](#), further explains "These events provide opportunities for local economic developers to build and solidify relationships with site consultants to be sure they are aware of our local business climate and industry advantages." Tim Dougher, Executive Director of the [Martin County Business Development Board](#), adds "It also gives consultants a higher level of trust and confidence in the local economic development office, increasing the likelihood of landing that next job-creation project."

The coalition includes the primary economic development offices in Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties as well as the President of [CareerSource Research Coast](#). The Chamber is a founding partner in Florida's Research Coast EDC.

The [Indian River County Chamber of Commerce](#) 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).

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