

4. Life Tech Florida:

On August 17, 2010, The Beacon Council and Florida International University convened leaders in higher education, economic development, and the life sciences to establish a regional economic development initiative: the creation of a Life Sciences Corridor in Southeast Florida. The mission of the group is to grow the life sciences in the region through research, workforce development and marketing. The working group will also partner with and build upon the advances made through the Florida High Tech Corridor in Central Florida, and pivot its initiatives around the significant efforts already underway at public and private universities and state colleges in the region, as well as the research laboratories and economic development agencies throughout Central and South Florida.

This initiative is consistent with the long term innovation and high technology growth strategy being deployed in Florida, including the New Florida initiative of the State University System. It builds upon the significant investment in the life sciences that Florida has made during the past decade, draws upon the high tech and innovation initiatives of key drivers of the Florida economy, such as Enterprise Florida and the Florida Chamber of Commerce, and focuses its efforts on innovation and job creation to ensure enhanced economic well-being in the face of the continuing economic recession.

The group has met multiple times since the initial August 2010 meeting and was divided into work groups to develop a draft of a regional plan of action. The plan of action included the group's mission, composition, strategies, external success factors and students. With this in hand, the group began developing a cluster roadmap through assessment of regional assets and identification of stakeholders in the ecosystem: universities, economic innovation infrastructures, private corporations, and sources of capital. Assembling these ingredients synergistically to leverage existing regional life science assets in South Florida with state, federal, or private investment opportunities will be instrumental in developing a more resilient economy that will generate more stable and sustainable jobs. The group's next steps include: establishing a single communication portal and a distinctive brand; developing a shared technology platform, researching core facilities and infrastructure; and creating a financial, legal and administrative model to enable the aforementioned. The group will continue to conduct an extensive asset map and cluster analysis and looks to establish a matching grants research program; strengthen the K-20 STEM career pathway; and looks to recruit, develop and retain talent in the region.



INAUGURAL MEETING OF LIFE TECH FLORIDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2011 AT FIU - Frank Nero with FIU President Mark Rosenberg and Divina Grossman along with Dr. Harry Orf from Scripps, President Mary Jane Saunders from Florida Atlantic University, and FIU Office of Engagement Coordinator Alina Parbtani.

**FASHION'S
NIGHT
OUT
SEPT. 8
2011
MIAMI**

5. Fashion's Night Out:

Miami-Dade County officially hosted Fashion's Night Out on Sept. 8, 2011. With an endorsement secured by The Beacon Council, Vogue and the Council of Fashion Designers of America, Miami-Dade County joined New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Milan and other cities worldwide in celebrating fashion. FNO is an unprecedented global initiative created in 2009 to celebrate fashion, restore consumer confidence, and boost the industry's economy. With the support of our Fashion-Lifestyle Committee, The Beacon Council launched a public relations and communications campaign designed to

highlight our local Fashion-Lifestyle industry, engage the community at-large in the effort and highlight the important economic contributions made by the Fashion-Lifestyle companies that call Miami-Dade County home.

FNO Partners included: **Retail:** Miami Design District, Aventura Mall and the Village of Merrick Park; **Print/Media:** The Miami Herald and Miami.com and **Hospitality:** Conrad Miami Hotel.



All FNO efforts, promotions and industry highlights were showcased via Facebook on a site exclusively dedicated to the Fashion's Night Out celebration!

FASHION NIGHT OUT (MIAMI DESIGN DISTRICT): (Left to right) Karen Salas-Morales, K&L Gates; and Jorge Gomez, Andago North America.



FASHION NIGHT OUT (MIAMI DESIGN DISTRICT): (left to right) Pete Trupia, SunTrust Bank; Dara Evans; Aria Nero-Seder, Aria Nero Designs; Joe Roisman, Perry Ellis International.