

Center to draw more researchers to Port St. Lucie, promote discoveries

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TRADITION — Business leaders with the Tradition Center for Innovation announced Wednesday the formation of Florida Innovation Partners, an organization that will direct the center's growth and promote the commercialization of new discoveries made within the park.

Andy Favata, Florida Innovation Partners' director and vice president of the Mann Research Center, said the new organization would "promote and grow the Tradition Center for Innovation through an active, strategic marketing and awareness program."

Florida Innovation Partners is directed by a council of leaders from anchor institutions with the Tradition Center for Innovation, including Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies, Oregon Health and Science University's Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute in Florida, Martin Memorial Health Systems and Mann Research Center.

Together, those organizations will funnel financial resources into Florida Innovation Partners to drive the center's growth.

The first initiative of the Florida Innovation Partners is an economic development campaign that's under way to attract additional high-caliber institutions to the center.

"We are seeking institutions with research programs synergistic with our scientific community," said Richard Houghten, founder and president of Torrey Pines, and a member of Florida Innovation Partners leadership council. "The expertise and research programs of TCI's current tenants complement each other well. New institutions will not only be able to access our resources, such as direct access to clinical trials and samples, but also strengthen those resources as well."

Torrey Pines conducts research to advance the understanding of human disease and improve human health. Torrey Pines' headquarters is in the Tradition Center for Innovation, a 150-acre research park in Port St. Lucie's Tradition, an 8,300-acre community.

Drug company MannKind Corp. recently sent top scientific management to meet with members of the Tradition Center for Innovation and other Treasure Coast biotech institutions.

“Thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of our scientific community and the strong support of the local government, the Tradition Center for Innovation has rapidly developed into a research community with expertise, resources, and funding necessary for attracting top-notch institutions,” said Favata. “FIP’s campaign to attract more institutions will multiply the return on Floridians’ investment in this research park and contribute to a sustainable, high-paying, knowledge-based economy.”

As the Tradition Center for Innovation expands, Florida Innovation Partners said it will shift more resources to support spin-offs and commercialization of discoveries.



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