



Jimmy Lane, president and CEO of the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce, with Rob Salonen, Florida Tech director of government affairs and strategic partnerships.

## Florida's STEM University Builds Workforce Development Partnerships, Celebrates Chamber Friends

In recognition of Workforce Development Month as proclaimed by Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida Tech's Interim President Robert King hosted Brevard County's four Chambers of Commerce in September to discuss the importance of educational rigor and factors that help businesses attract and retain a talented workforce.

Aerospace and ocean engineering, cyber security, manufacturing and the growing biomedical fields in Florida demand prepared employees at all levels of skill to continue the state's economic resiliency and growth. As an integral part of Florida's workforce development system, Florida Tech

has been providing hands-on STEM education and research based on Florida's Space Coast since 1958. Strengthening Florida's economy through skill development vitally needed by Florida's aerospace, aviation and defense industries, including the U.S. military and NASA, has always been at the forefront of Florida Tech programs.

Florida Tech celebrates National "Chamber Day" on Oct. 19, and sincerely thanks the Titusville, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne and Palm Bay Chambers of Commerce for prioritizing talent development and investing the time to tour "Florida's STEM University."

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### MELBOURNE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Melbourne Regional Chamber representatives Michael Ayers, president and CEO; Deborah Harmon, incoming chamber chair; and Neil Johnson, outgoing chamber chair, meet with Robert King, Florida Tech interim president.



Peter Zappala, COES director of operations and projects, showed the Melbourne Regional Chamber representative the L3Harris Student Design Center on the Florida Tech campus.

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## GREATER PALM BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Felix Gabriel, Florida Tech graduate student, shows off the L3Harris Student Design Center to Greater Palm Bay Chamber representatives Nancy Peltonen, president and CEO; Holly Tanner, incoming chamber chair; and Adam Copenhaver, outgoing chamber chair.



Dana Hustedt, Florida Tech director of esports, shows representatives of the Greater Palm Bay Chamber the Esports Center on the Florida Tech campus.

## COCOA BEACH REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Josette Roach, Larsen Motorsports development officer, showcases the Larsen Motorsports facility at Florida Tech's Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID) to Jimmy Lane, president and CEO of the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce.

## TITUSVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Erin Akins, president and CEO of the Titusville Area Chamber, learns about Larsen Motorsports (LMS) from Brian Tocci, LMS director of operations.



Akins also spoke with Juan Avendano, director of Florida Tech's Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Innovative Design (CAMID).



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