



# FIU staffer works to build South Florida as technology hub

BY SAMANTHA JOSEPH

A Florida International University staffer is called among the best at building tri-county partnerships.

The recognition for **James Bussey**, executive assistant to the dean of FIU's College of Business Administration, is due to his work with InternetCoast and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

As a board member for InternetCoast, Mr. Bussey is part of the regional project to create a global science and technology hub in South Florida. The group's goal is to foster regionalism to develop technology and train workers to



**James Bussey: InternetCoast inspires Beacon Council, chamber to create employment pipeline.**

meet the industry's needs.

The "coast" stretches from Miami-Dade north to Palm Beach County.

"He's definitely been leading the way," said Marie Bertot, a spokesperson for South Florida Workforce, a publicly funded program that matches employers with job seekers.

InternetCoast was born in the heyday of the dot-coms.

The group is an umbrella organization attracting more than 2,000 technology companies from Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Monroe counties to join forces and share ideas and address common concerns.

"As that grew, the bright lines between the counties just didn't exist," Mr. Bussey said.

As the organization grew, the failure of technology companies

across the country led the group to broaden its scope to focus on social issues that promote regionalism and link people with similar goals.

The idea has sparked the interest of the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade's economic development group, and the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce. The groups have collaborated to create what they call an employment pipeline that prepares workers to meet the demands of the most promising industries.

"I'm just one of the people waving my little flag over here," Mr. Bussey said. "I know there are many people in Broward and Palm Beach with the same desire

**The BEST of  
MIAMI** 04  
Building Regionalism

and awareness of the need to make this thing happen."

The employment issue is on the agenda of the chamber's annual meeting that begins today (6/3).

"The idea behind the pipeline is that if we broaden our focus too much, we're not going to get a lot done," Mr. Bussey said. "Our idea is to create a single point of contact for each industry. It's become a model that the more we work with it, the more it seems to fit the different industries."