



# at Work INNOVATION

By Erin Elizabeth Miller & Kayla Torpey

HERE'S A LOOK AT JUST SOME OF METRO ORLANDO'S RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS.

»» In an effort to motivate American businesses, President Barack Obama recently said, "That's how America will win the future — by out-innovating, out-educating and out-building our competitors." If the means to innovation are education, research and infrastructure, then Central Florida holds the keys to success.

## EARLY EDUCATION

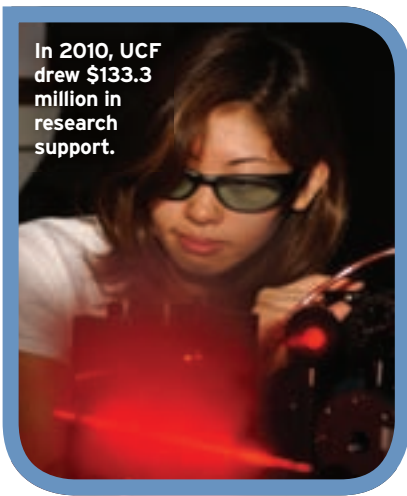
»» Full Sail University is partnering with Seminole County's **Midway Elementary School of the Arts** to provide students in grades K through five access to the university's resources. The goal is to promote real-world multimedia and innovative learning skills to children at this innovative art-based school.

## HIGHER LEARNING

»» In 2010, the **University of Central Florida (UCF)** received a record \$133.3 million in research support. Research at UCF has played a major role in launching local businesses. Started in 1999, UCF's **Business Incubation Program** has led to the development of 100 companies and has contributed to more than \$200 million in economic gain.

»» The **Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching** ranks UCF among the nation's top research institutions, along with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Stanford.

»» According to *The Princeton Review* and GamePro Media, UCF's video game graduate school — the **Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA)** — ranks as the number two video game school in North America.



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UCF

"This ranking is another sign of the hard work done by our faculty and staff to prepare the next generation of game developers and interactive entrepreneurs," says Ben Noel, FIEA's executive director.

»» *Leadership Excellence* magazine ranked **Rollins College's MBA program** as the best in Florida for leadership development. Rollins is also included in the 2011 edition of *The Princeton Review's Best 300 Business Schools*.

## NOTABLE

»» The **Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute** announced a three-year partnership with **Ortho-McNeil-**

**Janssen Pharmaceuticals** to explore new drugs for Alzheimer's disease and psychiatric disorders. Sanford-Burnham and **Florida Hospital** also will collaborate with Asia's biggest drug maker, **Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.**, on a two-year project that addresses new therapeutic approaches to obesity.

»» In 2010, its first year of operation, **GrowFL** helped Florida companies create more than 400 jobs. A program of the **Florida Economic Gardening Institute** at UCF, this state-funded initiative is based on proven business support strategies known as "economic gardening," and targets second-stage growth companies.

»» Florida's film, television, and commercial production industry has been sizzling. **P3 Magazine**, an international trade publication, named Florida a top 10 U.S. film location, thanks to its newly revamped incentives, diverse locations, and deep infrastructure. Industry professionals continue to take advantage of all that Central Florida offers: Filming for **Transformers 3** recently took place at **Kennedy Space Center** and **Orlando International Airport's** Signature Jetport. Also, at **Universal Orlando**, production recently wrapped on the film **Tooth Fairy 2**, which stars popular comic "Larry the Cable Guy."