

# HERE and NOW

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FROM AWARDS TO EXPANSIONS TO NEW PARTNERSHIPS, HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CENTRAL FLORIDA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY.



Despite the recession, the demand for qualified technical workers remains high in Central Florida. Emerging industries such as simulation and the life sciences remain poised for growth, while the area also prepares to welcome some new opportunities.

## bioORLANDO UPDATE

**bioOrlando**, a council of the Metro Orlando Economic Development Commission (EDC), serves as a catalyst for accelerating growth of the life science and biotechnology industry in Central Florida. Here's the latest news about this emerging sector:

- » Recognizing the potential for convergence between two of our region's strongest industries — simulation and life science — local leaders are working to position Metro Orlando as a center of excellence in this emerging industry sector. The Med Sim Consortium — led by the Orlando-headquartered **National Center for Simulation** — has been established to accelerate that effort.
- » Orlando's 'medical city' at Lake Nona was recently selected as the national site for the **Department of Veterans Affairs' Medical Simulation Center for Excellence**. The center, to be located at the new Orlando VA Medical Complex, will serve as the nationwide training and planning home for the VA's new medical simulation system, making our region the focal point for improved care and treatment of veterans across the country.



SANFORD-BURNHAM MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- » The Burnham Institute for Medical Research has been renamed. The research organization's East and West Coast operations will now be known as **Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute**, renamed in honor of philanthropist T. Denny Sanford who pledged \$50 million to support, further expand and accelerate the Institute's medical research priorities.
- » Late last year, the **Florida Hospital — Sanford-Burnham Institute Translational Research Institute for Metabolism and Diabetes Biorepository** announced that it would open in 2012 as the gateway to Florida Hospital's "Health Village." The goal of this collaborative effort is to bridge the distance

between research in the lab and treatment at the bedside for the growing health problems related to diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease.


- » Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute announced a partnership with **Duke University Medical Center's Sarah W. Stedman Nutrition and Metabolism Center** on a new metabolic research program. The collaboration is expected to begin this fall.

- » *bioOrlando* has established a **Scientific Advisory Council**, which will engage scientific researchers throughout Metro Orlando in discussions focused on collaboration and shared partnership opportunities.

For more information, visit [www.bioOrlando.com](http://www.bioOrlando.com).

## SPEEDY DELIVERY

**SunRail** — Central Florida's commuter rail system — finally got the Legislative support it needed to become a reality as 2009 drew to a close. By 2012, the trains are expected to run on 61 miles of track that will connect Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties and provide a viable transportation



High-speed rail is coming to Central Florida.

alternative for commuters. Over the next 25 years, SunRail is projected to create more than 250,000 jobs and \$8 billion in economic impact.

On the heels of the SunRail announcement, President Barack Obama visited Tampa in January to announce that the **Florida High Speed Rail System** would receive \$1.25 billion in federal funding to connect Tampa to Orlando in the 84-mile first phase of the project. Stops will include Orlando International Airport, Orange County Convention Center, Walt Disney World, Lakeland and Tampa; and the system could be running by 2015. The second phase of the project will connect Orlando to Miami by 2017. Ultimately, a statewide system is envisioned.

## MATH & SCIENCE TIME

Tech industry powerhouses from throughout Central Florida — including NASA, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, SAIC, Boeing, Harris Corporation, Naval Air Warfare Center, U.S. Army PEO-STRI, Disney, and Cox Marketing — have joined with the University of Central Florida, Manufacturers Association of Central Florida and Florida Virtual School to encourage study in science, technology, engineering and math.

This impressive group comprises the charter members of the **Central Florida STEM Education Council (CFSEC)**, which will be based at the UCF Business Incubation Program in the Central Florida Research Park. Their end goal is to prepare and entice pre-college

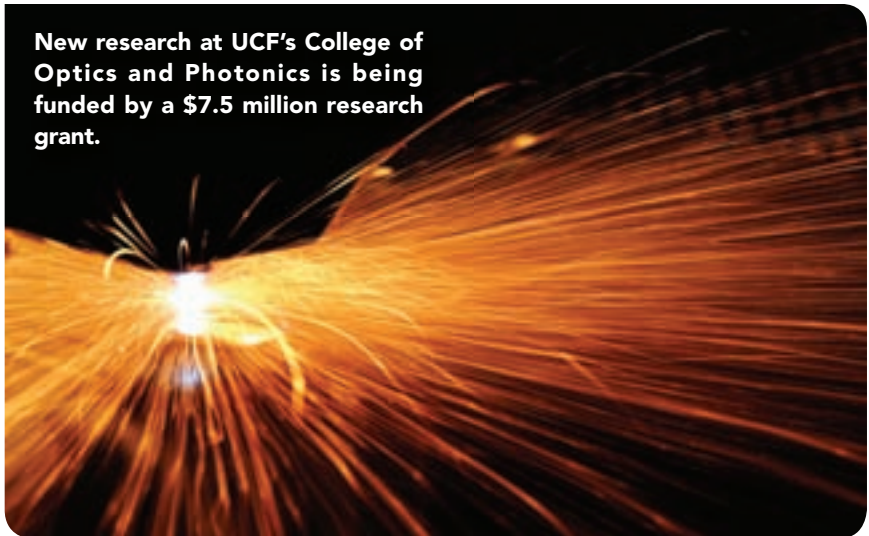
students to enter technical fields of study and, ultimately, to pursue high-tech jobs in Central Florida. Efforts will be directed at students in Orange, Seminole, Lake, Osceola, Brevard, Volusia, Polk and Flagler counties. The demand for qualified technical workers remains high in Central Florida.

## R&D AWARD WINNER

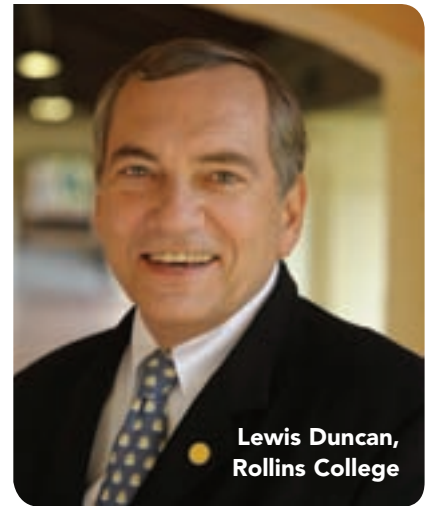
**Planar Energy Devices**, a manufacturer of advanced technology batteries, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), is a recipient of the prestigious R&D 100 award. Planar's innovation, entitled "Thin-Film Lithium Rechargeable Microbattery," is based on a successful redesign of the traditional solid state battery technology. The R&D 100 award has been called the "Oscars for invention."

## UCF WINS GRANT

The University of Central Florida (UCF) has been awarded a \$7.5 million research grant to study ways to make photovoltaic solar cells more efficient in capturing and converting solar energy into electricity and less costly to manufacture. This research, being headed by **UCF College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL)** professor Winston Schoenfeld, could lead to ways to produce highly flexible solar panels that can be manufactured in large quantities to support solar products ranging from solar roof shingles to portable energy.



New research at UCF's College of Optics and Photonics is being funded by a \$7.5 million research grant.



## ROLLINS INITIATIVE

Five years ago, **Rollins College** President Lewis Duncan embarked upon an unparalleled effort to provide international experiences for its faculty. The president's *Internationalization Initiative* affords professors and teaching staff at Rollins the opportunity to travel all over the world to see other countries and experience other cultures — and strives to enable every faculty member to have an international experience at least once every three years. Since its launch in 2005, more than 75 percent of eligible faculty have participated, many of whom cite "transformative" effects on their research and their lives. In 2008, Rollins received national recognition in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as a leader in higher education for its efforts to internationalize its faculty. 