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NSU and Broward County Announce New Center of Innovation

Alan B. Levan Gives Naming Gift; Center to Stimulate Business Growth in South Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE/DAVIE, Fla. – [Nova Southeastern University](http://www.nova.edu) (NSU) will soon be home to the **Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation**, scheduled to open its doors in July 2021. The Levan Center of Innovation is the continuation of a long-standing public-private partnership with NSU and Broward County and will occupy the entire fifth floor of NSU’s Alvin Sherman Library, making it one of the largest of its kind in the nation occupying 54,000-square-feet of space.

“We are leading the effort to nurture an innovation ecosystem right here at NSU that puts Broward as the hub of innovation for South Florida and geographically located in its center,” said Dr. George Hanbury, NSU’s President and CEO. “Today’s competitive, tech-driven environment calls for strategic partnerships to stimulate economic development and NSU, as a ‘knowledge-based industry’ is proud to house this on our campus. The Levan Center of Innovation will develop into a hub-and-spoke model where companies can scale-up and create knowledge-based jobs in South Florida while stimulating economic development on a much grander scale than we’ve seen before.”

The Levan Center of Innovation was launched as a collaborative effort between NSU, its Board of Trustees, and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to create two “theory and practice” integrated programs: 1.) an academic curriculum of innovation for all of NSU’s 15 Colleges, its research centers, and NSU’s University School; and 2.) an economic development program for the County to “scale up” early-stage and young start-up businesses, primarily focused on the defined targeted industry verticals, while attracting and retaining hi-tech corporations in the region.

“Broward’s businesses, large and small, have great vision and the intellectual capacity to build on the rapidly changing landscape around the world,” said Bertha Henry, Broward County Administrator. “No doubt, we are poised to take advantage of the opportunities the Center of Innovation will offer.”

The 54,000-square-foot space, located on the top floor of NSU’s Alvin Sherman Library, will bring together entrepreneurs, students, faculty, staff, companies, venture capitalists, angel investors, economic development experts and other creative individuals to build better people who can then build better businesses. The Center will be a catalyst for the region’s innovation ecosystem to develop and upskill local talent—and attract talent from outside the region—that is vital to successfully scaling up early-stage and young companies and provide a place for mature companies to innovate through skunkworks projects.

Because Mr. Levan, a Florida-based business leader and NSU trustee, volunteered to take on the leadership role in seeing this new effort come to fruition and also committed his philanthropic support as well as his passion for the university and community, Dr. Hanbury has not only asked Mr. Levan to be its founding Chair of the Board of Governors for the Center of Innovation, but has also named the Center the **Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation**.

“The Center is poised to be a transformative institution in Broward County. I am pleased and honored to be appointed chair, and proud to see it bear my name,” said Mr. Levan. “I see a unique opportunity to tap into the potential of businesses and entrepreneurs throughout our community with this Center acting as a catalyst for their development and growth.”

Mr. Levan’s philanthropic gift, resulting in the naming of the center, will help to build out the space over the next eight months. NSU and Broward County have both committed \$5 million each, and an additional \$10 million will be raised through business partnerships and community philanthropy, for a total of \$20 million.

NSU students will have unique access to amenities and events at the Levan NSU Broward Center of Innovation, including business startup/ramp-up assistance, training in entrepreneurship and business fundamentals, boot camps, guest speakers and early-stage financing. Growing into one of the largest innovation centers in the nation, students will have access to the tools that will give them the opportunity to dominate their careers, both academically and professionally.

The Levan Center of Innovation will also offer a comprehensive list of programs, events and wraparound services supporting innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. Programming will include specialized workshops and seminars, guest speakers, boot camps and hackathons complemented by a thoughtfully designed co-working space for people to develop their skills collaboratively. In addition, the Center of Innovation will offer incubator and accelerator programs for early-stage, high-growth companies; mentoring opportunities; startup space; a showcase and pitch area; technology and innovation skills classes and more. A key differentiator will be the addition of a purpose-built cybersecurity training range outfitted with a leading-edge technology platform providing instruction opportunities for the NSU community, industry, and potential government partners.

Announcement of the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation’s Executive Director and Board of Governors is forthcoming.

For more information about the Alan B. Levan | NSU Broward Center of Innovation, visit nova.edu/innovation.

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About Nova Southeastern University (NSU): At NSU, students don’t just get an education, they get the competitive edge they need for real careers, real contributions and real life. A dynamic, private research university, NSU is providing high-quality educational and research programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree levels. Established in 1964, the university includes 15 colleges, the 215,000-square-foot Center for Collaborative Research, the private PK2-12 grade NSU University School, the world-class [NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale](#), and

the [Alvin Sherman Library, Research and Information Technology Center](#), one of Florida's largest public libraries. NSU students learn at our campuses in Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Miramar, Orlando, Palm Beach, and Tampa, Florida, as well as San Juan, Puerto Rico, and online globally. With nearly 200,000 alumni across the nation and globe, the reach of the NSU community is worldwide. Classified as having "high research activity" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, NSU is one of only 50 universities nationwide to also be awarded Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification, and is also the largest private institution in the United States that meets the U.S. Department of Education's criteria as a Hispanic-serving Institution. Please visit www.nova.edu for more information.