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\*Please note this meeting will be at the Dunlap Champions Club; 3rd Floor

#### Tuesday, June 25th

Lunch Buffet	11:30 AM
Program Begins	12:00 PM
Introductions	12:10 PM
Presentation Begins	12:15 PM
Q&A	12:50 PM
Meeting Adjourned	1:00 PM

# Onsite & Virtual Program

Dunlap Champions Club 225 Champions Way, Bldg B Tallahassee, FL 32304

To RSVP, please email mail@economic-club.com

Call: (850) 224-0711

PLEASE RSVP BY Noon on Friday, June 21st

# Contact Us

# Economic Club of Florida, Inc.

325 John Knox Road, Suite L103

Tallahassee, FL 32303 (850) 224-0711

mail@Economic-Club.com www.Economic-Club.com Not for Profit Corporation Federal ID: 59-1777886

## Florida's Booming Economy

Our speaker this month brings the "boom" to the above title of our luncheon program. Clark Mica is President of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME). This trade group, which represents U.S. manufacturers and distributors of commercial explosives, is out with a new economic impact study that highlights the critical role of these explosives in building the U.S. and Florida economies. In Florida, commercial explosives are used in many activities, including mining aggregate in South Florida quarries, drilling and installing oil and gas pipelines, and in the explosive bolts that release the space rockets fired from the Kennedy Space Center. "I'll be sharing how explosives build America

and Florida," Mr. Mica told Club Officers in a recent conference call. "Think about all the construction going on infrastructure-wise in Florida, whether it's building roads, building subdivisions, housing developments, there's a lot of work at that level that's being done. You don't have to dig down too far to hit rock in Florida. So in order to level the area, you have to use commercial explosives," he said.

Like many industries, IME members face challenges in finding an available workforce, supply chain

disruptions, and rising transportation costs, while also addressing environmental impact and safety concerns, which Mr. Mica will also discuss.

Prior to joining IME, Mr. Mica served as Vice President of Government Affairs at The Fertilizer Institute in Washington, D.C, where he directed its policy advocacy efforts to Congress and within federal agencies. He previously served as Presidential Appointee in the George W. Bush Administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As its Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations (Acting), Mica was the Department's liaison to the White House, federal agencies, Governors, Mayors, and public and private industry organizations. He also served as a Congressional Liaison Officer at HUD, working on a variety of



homeownership issues.
A native of Winter Park,
Florida, Mr. Mica earned
his bachelor's degree in
political science at
Appalachian State
University. He will be
introduced by Christopher
Emmanuel, Director of
Government Relations for
the University of Florida
and Club Vice President.

Thank you to our June Luncheon Sponsor



#### **Recent New Members**

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Marcia Roitberg, MHR Communications LLC

Amy Zubaly, Fl Municipal Electric Association

Trè Warren, <u>First Franklin</u> Financial

Chris Hart, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers

Sara Bremer, Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers

Ashley Guy, <u>Tallulah CBD</u> Mushroom THC

Matthew Toplak, Florida Division of Emergency Management

You can access membership applications on the club's website at www.economic-club.com.

Encourage a friend to become a member today!

### Name Badges



We have newly designed name badges. If you have an old name badge and would like one with the new design, the cost is \$15.

If interested, you can purchase a new name badge at the <u>Club's website</u> or call the office at 850-224-0711.

# The Opportunity Capital in Florida's Rocket Ship Economy

The May Club meeting featured Saif Ishoof, Founder and Managing Partner of Lab22c, a Miami business development firm whose clients include a flying boat builder and an artificial intelligence software developer. Mr. Ishoof, an entrepreneur in his own right, shared a glimpse of what Florida could become in the future. based on what's been happening in the last few years in Miami.



Left to right: Marion Hoffmann, Matt Mohler, Saif Ishoof, Katrina Rolle, Andy Gazitua, Alasdair Roe and Glenn Robertson.

"We moved over \$1.5

trillion of assets under management capital to Miami and Florida in the last 48 months," he told the Club. There's a global ranking called the GFCI which stands for Global Financial Center Index. It's a ranking of global financial centers. Miami had never been on the list ever before. This year, we landed on the list for our first time at number 24. Dubai is 21."

Mr. Ishoof said the infusion of capital and technological innovation that's led to that economic growth depends on human capital – something Florida needs to make sure it continually develops along the way to sustain growth.

"We have to develop human capital in our K 12 system," he said. "We have to make sure that we're supporting early learning, we have to be focusing on creating an actual pathway. So, from when a young person graduates from college, they can see their way to a meaningful career. Are you setting up everybody's child for this form of success? Are you enabling and creating those types of ecosystems in those environments?"

Florida has the fourth-largest economy in the United States and if it were its own country, would be the 16<sup>th</sup>-largest economy in the world. As of fall 2023, the Gross Domestic Product was \$1.6 trillion annually and is growing at a rate of 6.1% annually, leading all other states in economic growth. (You can read more and listen to the Club's podcast with Saif Ishoof on our Podcasts and Summaries webpage.)

# Did you know?

Supporting the Economic Club of Florida is not only a great way to provide prominent and distinguished speakers to our community, but it can also provide you with potential tax benefits. As a 501c3 organization, donations made to the Club are tax deductible under IRS standards. While dues may not be eligible for tax deductions, Trustee contributions are eligible. By becoming a Trustee, you can not only help support the club but also enjoy the tax advantages that come with it.

To update your information and join as a Trustee, please contact Lisette Mariner, the Executive Director of the Economic Club of Florida, at mail@economic-club.com or (850) 224-0711.

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July 23, 2024



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#### August 6, 2024



**President** LM White Consulting

(Autonomous Trucking Expert) **FSU Alumni** 

Lee White

**September 24, 2024** 



Jessica Harvey **CEO** 

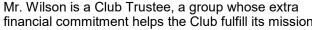
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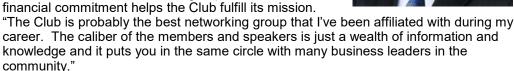


# **Member Spotlight**



Michael Wilson is Vice President of Private and Commercial Banking at The First Bank, celebrating his 37<sup>th</sup> year in the banking and financial services industry. He had previously been in the same role with Sunshine Community Bank, which was acquired by The First in 2018, along with Farmers & Merchants Bank in 2019. His prior experience includes executive roles at Fifth Third Bank and Regions Bank, noting that community banking "is closer to the customer."





He was born in Bonifay, Florida but moved around the country with his military family, including El Paso, Texas, before returning to Florida in 1986 to attend Edison State Community College. Mr. Wilson and his wife Rhonda have two sons, Shawn and Chandler, and are members of Celebration Baptist Church. His community service includes the Boy Scouts of America where he served as Treasurer for Troop 23 for five vears. He has been a member of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and served as Treasurer for its Leads Group 1. When not in the office, he enjoys outdoor pursuits, including fishing, boating, camping, and hunting.

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