

LEADERSHIP

BREVARD

Session Four Thursday, December 19, 2019

"Innovation"

(or putting the space in "space coast" as stated by one participant)

To pre-register for Leadership Brevard Class of 2021 [CLICK HERE!](#)

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60 Leadership Brevard class 2020 participants spent the day at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Complex with "innovation" as the theme of day.

Dale Ketcham, LB 1986, Vice President, Government & External Relations, Space Florida and current LEAD Brevard Board Chairman kicked off the session and the class heard from **Dr. Don Platt**, Associate Professor of Space Systems and Spaceport Site Director, Florida Tech and **Robyn Mitchell**, Branch Chief, Partnership Development Office, Center Planning and Development Directorate, NASA Kennedy Space Center, learning about the progress and the challenges of innovation in the space programs in the community we all know as the 'space coast'.

After a guided tour of the Astronaut training experience (ATX) (and a special lunch!) the class heard from **Bill Schaal, Jr.** (LB 2019), Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU), Support Services and Planning Division Head, with information about the military in Brevard, the relationships the service branches have with the space program and the economic impact to Brevard of both active duty and the retiree community; the impact is \$1.12 B (with a "b")! The drive to 48 launches from the current 24 was also a key fact in this presentation.



Therrin Protze, Chief Operating Officer, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, Operated by Delaware North and the sponsor of the day treated the group to a glimpse of the future of the park and of the education the park provides as part of their mission.

With a tour of the Atlantis shuttle exhibit rounding out the day, it's no wonder that some of the comments following the session included these descriptions -

Providing you with community education:

- I have lived in Brevard for 34 years and was not aware of all of the learning opportunities the Space program had to offer the community.
 - I feel more in tune with what is going on.
- Brought me up to speed on what is happening now and in the future with the space industry.
- Better understanding of how the government and private sectors have worked together to keep the space race going.
 - I learned about the impact of the space industry to us locally as well as nationally and internationally.
- A greater understanding of the growth and growth potential of the area and the concerns that go along with it.
- Learned much more about the space industry and how they are working together with NASA and the port.
- Great information on this area of Brevard and how the different areas of space and military impact the county.
 - Awesome information on KSC.
 - Excitement about the space industry.
 - Given me ideas of places I can help.
- The expansion of space business right here in our own backyard.



Plan now to join the next cohort of Leadership Brevard;
the class of 2021 enrolling soon!!