

**Digital Boardwalk**  
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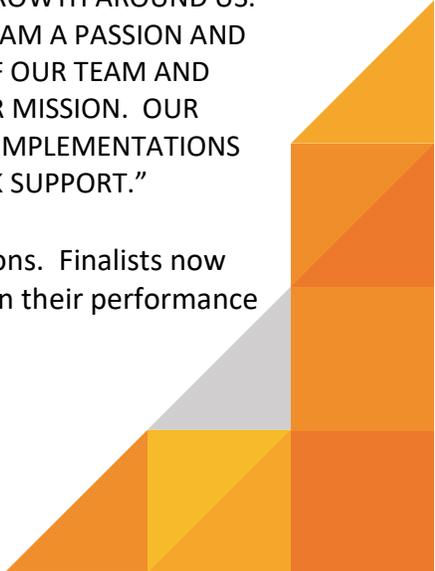
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**News Release**  
*For Immediate Release*

**GrowFL Announces 2018 Florida Companies to Watch Finalists**  
*Digital Boardwalk Among Second-Stage Businesses  
Competing to Earn Prestigious Honor*

Pensacola, FL *Digital Boardwalk* was among the first round of 2018 *Florida Companies to Watch* finalists recently announced by GrowFL. The awards event - now in its eighth year - honors 50 select second-stage companies from throughout the state for developing valuable products and services, creating quality jobs, enriching communities, and broadening new industries throughout Florida. Chosen from a candidate pool of 134 growing second-stage businesses, the finalists collectively represented \$518 million in annual revenue and employed 2,743 full-time equivalent employees in 2017.

“THIS YEAR HAS MARKED A HUGE MILESTONE FOR DIGITAL BOARDWALK,” SAYS TIM SHOOP, CEO. “WE HAVE GROWN 81% OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND ADDED MANY JOBS RIGHT HERE IN FLORIDA. MY FAVORITE PART OF THE GROWTH IS THAT WE NOT ONLY CREATE JOBS, BUT IT ALLOWS US TO GIVE BACK TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND FOSTER MORE GROWTH AROUND US. WE HAVE AN AMAZING ENTREPRENEURIAL CULTURE THAT INSTILLS IN OUR TEAM A PASSION AND DRIVE THAT OUR CUSTOMERS EXPERIENCE ON A DAILY BASIS. I AM PROUD OF OUR TEAM AND COULDN’T HAVE ACHIEVED ANY OF THIS WITHOUT THEIR DEDICATION TO OUR MISSION. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP OTHER BUSINESSES SCALE THROUGH PROPER TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATIONS AND PLANNING, WHILE BACKING THAT UP WITH AWARD-WINNING HELP-DESK SUPPORT.”

The *Florida Companies To Watch* program consists of two rounds of selections. Finalists now advance to the second round, where they will be further evaluated based on their performance





in the marketplace, innovative products, services or processes, philanthropy and empowered employees.

“We applaud these first round finalists who have shown how they stand out in their regions as innovative business leaders, going to the next level to grow their companies. They are true rock stars,” says Dr. Tom O’Neal, GrowFL Executive Director.

The Finalists represent a unique group of scalable, high-growth enterprises that are already located within Florida. These high growth enterprises are an important segment of our economy and their numbers have been steadily increasing, which contributed to Florida’s ranking of 24 on the 2018 Kauffman Index of Growth Entrepreneurship. According to this report, “entrepreneurship is not a monolithic phenomenon, and it includes many moving parts. Creating new businesses is a different economic activity from running small businesses, which in turn is different from growing businesses.” Florida Companies to Watch recognizes the different approach needed to successfully grow and scale a business and celebrates those that are working to achieve this goal.

**-MORE-**

### **2018 FLCTW First Round Finalists – Add TWO**

Developed by the Edward Lowe Foundation, *Florida Companies To Watch* is a distinguished awards program specifically designed to seek out second-stage businesses from a wide range of industries representing all areas of the state, not just those in major metropolitan areas. In addition to evaluating past growth and projected success, applicant companies are judged according to their special strengths and impact in their markets, communities and within the state – thus deeming them “worth watching.”

The winners will be announced in MID-September. The 2018 honorees will be celebrated at the awards ceremony February 9<sup>th</sup> at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, FL.

For more information visit <https://www.growfl.com/flctw18/>.



**Digital Boardwalk provides comprehensive technology management and consulting services for small and medium-sized businesses throughout Florida and beyond. We help customers achieve reliability, security, and peace of mind through award-winning support, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and backup services. We know that technology is integral to your business, so we work diligently to keep your technology working for our clients. Our team of certified technology specialists bring their individual expertise and knowledge to each job at hand. Together, we promise to provide you with the best customer service experience, industry-leading technology, and continuous innovation, all catered to your specific needs.**

**About GrowFL**

*GrowFL was created in 2009 as an economic development program focused on assisting second-stage growth companies prosper in the state of Florida. By providing strategies, resources and support to second-stage companies for next level growth through Strategic Research, Peer Learning and Leadership Development, GrowFL helps companies overcome obstacles to growth and leads them towards prosperity. Based on the philosophy of Economic Gardening® — to grow existing businesses in a community, region or state — GrowFL, the Florida Economic Gardening Institute, is a critical component to the state’s economic development strategy and Florida’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. GrowFL is a statewide economic development organization certified by the National Center for Economic Gardening through the Edward Lowe Foundation. Learn more at [www.GrowFL.com](http://www.GrowFL.com).*

Sincerely,

Tim Shoop  
President/CEO  
Digital Boardwalk