

Hurricane Ian Response and Recovery

The Economic Development Office has focused on business outreach following Hurricane Ian.

We partnered with CareerSource Southwest Florida to open a call center to reach out to Charlotte County businesses. As of January 31st:

- **6,000 outreach calls made to Charlotte County businesses.**
- **1,213 Business Assessment Surveys completed.**
- **\$277,982,128 million in business damages reported.**
- **11,233 resource emails sent.**

The outreach center is no longer making calls. If you need information or assistance please visit our website: www.Cleared4Takeoff.com/Hurricane_Ian or call us at 941-764-4941.

Florida Gulf Coast 75 Logistics Center Lands First Tenant



Dakota Premium Hardwoods, a national lumber distribution company, is opening its first Florida location. Dakota Hardwoods' will be the first tenant of the new Florida Gulf Coast 75 Logistics Center, which is on the grounds of the Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park. Dakota will build out its own space at the center to meet its needs. The work is set to be completed in August and the warehouse will open in September. The company will employ about 25 people in Punta Gorda.

Equus Capital Partners, the developer, is building the 378,000-square-foot center on spec and has launched a national marketing campaign with hopes of having it fully leased by the time the work was complete.

Waco, Texas-based Dakota is a distributor of lumber, engineered products and full-job packages such as supports and fasteners. It has 11 locations in the U.S., including Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. Dan Miller, the executive managing director for Colliers, which represented Equus, says the property is attractive because of where it's located.

"The Punta Gorda market has emerged as the new epicenter for this type of distribution project," Miller says in a statement announcing the agreement. "It's a good location to serve all of Florida as a regional distribution center, with Sarasota County to the north and Collier County to the south."

Punta Gorda Airport Summarizes Year-End Accomplishments

Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) new Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study values Punta Gorda Airport's (PGD) total economic impact (output) at \$1.7 billion, up from \$1.275 billion in its 2019 report.

While there are about 1,500 jobs directly on-airport, the FDOT profile attributes more than 11,000 jobs to PGD when including the visitor spending component, supplier sales and other jobs that result directly and indirectly (multiplier effect) from the airport's success. The FDOT also attributes a \$541 million payroll to PGD, which reflects the total compensation for work, including gross wages, salaries, employer-provided benefits and taxes paid to government on behalf of employees. The report can be found on FlyPGD.com under "Airport Operations" by clicking on "[Passenger Stats & Economics.](#)"

