

From the Jacksonville Business Journal

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2015/02/09/eight-jacksonville-companies-among-gator-nations.html>

## Eight Jacksonville companies among Gator Nation's fastest growing

Feb 9, 2015, 3:07pm EST Updated: Feb 10, 2015, 7:53am EST



[Jensen Werley](#)

Reporter- *Jacksonville Business Journal*

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#)

The [Gator Nation](#) is everywhere, but it especially seems to be in Jacksonville, where eight fast-growing companies from the area were recognized as part of the first Gator 100.

Modeled after the Inc. 100, the Gator 100 recognized the top fastest-growing companies led by University of Florida alumni.

The companies were ranked by compounded annual growth rate, which is based on how quickly the company is growing, said [Nola Miyasaki](#), executive director for outreach and incubation programs at the UF Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

### See Also

- [Business Journal 50: Great people drive Atlantic Logistics](#)
- [Business Journal 50: Jimerson & Cobb PA relies on attitude and accountability](#)
- [Business Journal 50: For Landmark Title, success came through customer focus](#)

"We thought of the UF alumni base and entrepreneurs who were alumni," said Miyasaki, "and thought this would be a great way to reach out to them, find them and honor the fastest-growing of the many great Gator-owned companies. It's a way for us to reach out to them and bring them back to campus."

The program consisted of a VIP reception Thursday night, a breakfast Friday morning (where alumni could meet with the deans of the colleges they graduated from), seminars on sustaining business growth and a gala on Friday night. With 600 people present at the gala, the rankings — which were secretly tabulated by Ernst and Young — were debuted.

"This is the first year and it was a huge success," Miyasaki said. "Our plan is to do it every year and track companies year to year. We expect the mix to change. This is a tribute to the leadership and sustainability of a company." She said 500 companies applied to be recognized.

Of the 100 awards given, seven were from Jacksonville and one was from Jacksonville Beach. The [HCI Group](#) and CEO [Ricky Caplan](#) ranked at No. 6 with a 136 percent growth rate. The highest ranking company was SoloHealth, a technology firm from Atlanta, which had a 274 percent growth rate.

Other Jacksonville companies included [East Coast Institute for Research](#), [Landmark Title LLC](#), Destinations to Explore, [Jimerson & Cobb](#), [Atlantic Logistics Inc.](#), [JWB Real Estate Capital LLC](#) and Greenshades Software.

[Robert Hooper](#), whose freight transportation company Atlantic Logistics Inc. was also recognized on the [Jacksonville Business Journal's list of 50](#) fastest-growing companies by revenue increase percentage, said it was a wonderful opportunity to get back to the campus and meet with other top companies.

He said he suspected part of the reason there was such a high turnout from the First Coast was because of a proximity to Gainesville, home of the University of Florida.

"A lot of people who came out of Jacksonville went to University of Florida," he said. "My suspicion is there may be so many of us because of a closeness to the university." He said areas like Orlando also had a high turnout of businesses.

He added that he hopes his company, which was started in 2001, makes the list for next year as well.

"It's the people, process and the product," he said, citing its latest processing software and customer service as factors for success, in addition to its employees. "We have tremendous people in our organization, who strive to excel constantly. We have several Gators," he said, laughing, "and one Gamecock fan."

Jensen covers logistics, manufacturing and defense