

As Entrepreneurship in our region grows, so do the job opportunities.

Northeast Florida continues to be a region for innovation. **Not only are people moving here for the climate, attractions and affordable cost of living, but they also see this area as the perfect spot to build their dreams and business empires.**

JAX is home to multiple organizations that can assist upcoming entrepreneurs in their creative and strategic process. The universities here also offer multiple entrepreneurial focused concentrations (see page 2). Thanks to these supporting factors, it is clear that Northeast Florida is a great spot to put your dreams into action.

Jacksonville was ranked the #3 Best Large City to Start a Business by WalletHub in April 2026.

Places like The Link offer flexible space, studios for podcasting and a connecting point for creativity and innovation. These spaces assist entrepreneurs as they are getting their businesses off the ground.

FAST FACTS

2500+ JAX Bridges Alumni
in Northeast Florida

\$67,937 median wage per
worker in the region

**Jacksonville #1 City for Young
Entrepreneurs** (Search Logistics, 2024)

JAX CHAMBER 2026 SMALL BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE YEAR



Dr. Tim Conway



Darrien Eakins



Justin Kane



Chris Kennelly



Tom Snogles



Kati Lambert



Jason Pratt



Dawn Stewart



Heather Waisanen



April Watson



Boshawn Mack

Talent Pipeline

Regional colleges & degree/certificate programs with applicable concentrations



Florida State College
at Jacksonville

Florida State College at Jacksonville offers a **Business Entrepreneurship Technical Certificate (T.C.)** that provides students the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to open and operate a small business. Coursework prepares future business owners with the skills to make their ventures a success, including basic accounting principles, marketing strategies and overall management techniques.
www.fscj.edu/academics/areas-of-study/business/business-entrepreneurship

Edward Waters University has a partnership with The Propel Center, an organization that supports Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by connecting students to technology curriculum, entrepreneurship skills development and accelerator programs. EWU offers a **Bachelors in Business Administration** that would be a great starting point for ambitious entrepreneurs.

<https://www.ew.edu/academic-programs/business-admin/>



University of North Florida offers a **minor in Entrepreneurship** that is available to all majors if approved by a student's college. In achieving this minor, students will gain understanding in multiple facets of entrepreneurship, such as family business management, small business consulting and new venture growth.
www.unf.edu/coggin/CEI/

St. Johns River State College offers students an **Associates in Business Administration** that prepares students for positions in management and small business administration/ownership. The content learned throughout this degree program will provide students with the knowledge to help set themselves up for success as an entrepreneur.
www.sjrst.edu/business_admin



Jacksonville University offers a **minor in Entrepreneurship**. The minor provides you with a group of courses that merge creativity and design thinking with business management, marketing and finance to help students build an entrepreneurial mindset critical to a successful business practice.
www.ju.edu/dcob/bachelors/programs/entrepreneurship.php

Flagler College offers a **Bachelors in Social Entrepreneurship** for students who seek to build unique business models to create lasting social change. During junior year, all students join a service learning project and develop an action plan for meaningful, lasting social change.
www.flagler.edu/academics/degrees-programs/business-administration-international-business-marketing-and-social



Organizations for Emerging Entrepreneurs in Northeast Florida



NextUp JAX, a program of the JAX Chamber, focuses on bringing together Northeast Florida's emerging leaders and harnessing their talents to create initiatives that better the community. The program's mission is to champion the vision of the JAX Chamber by empowering the next generation of leaders to create and sustain a vibrant young professional community.

www.myjaxchamber.com/get-involved/nextup-jax/

Jacksonville's Women's Business Center connects female business owners and leaders to our region's professional resources. Through this center, women are assisted in efforts to develop infrastructure that facilitates business growth and prosperity.

www.jaxchamberfoundation.org/jacksonville-womens-business-center/



JAX Bridges, a program of the JAX Chamber, consists of over 2,500 alumni and serves as a simulation that educates and connects entrepreneurs. By leveraging entrepreneurial tools, unique learning strategies and developing corporate relationships, this organization delivers successfully on value proposition.

www.jaxbridges.com

Beaver Street Enterprise Center, Northeast Florida's premier business incubator, is an initiative of FreshMinistries Inc., and operates with the support of Jacksonville's Economic Development Corporation. Located in the city's northwest quadrant in both state enterprise and federal enterprise zones, this non-profit has support from a large number of partners.

<https://bsecenter.net/>



PS27 Ventures serves to empower entrepreneurs to scale their breakthrough ideas. This organization invests in early-stage companies that are making notable impacts within high-growth markets. Through capital, connections and community, their organization is able to assist young entrepreneurs in a well- rounded, hands-on way.

www.ps27ventures.com

The mission of The Link is to provide needed experiences and solutions to its members' families and cultivate the venue's mantra of 'learn, play, think, and do. Their 22,500 sq.ft. building features open workspaces and office spaces for emerging entrepreneurs to connect and work. Becoming a member of The Link gives you the access to a community of innovative individuals, studios for podcast recording and workspaces and wellness activities.

<https://www.thelink.zone/>



JAXUSA TALENT DEVELOPMENT

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Earn Up is powered by JAXUSA Partnership, the private, nonprofit division of JAX Chamber that is Jacksonville's regional economic development initiative overseeing the efforts of the seven counties of Northeast Florida. Earn Up also works closely with CareerSource Northeast Florida to ensure that employers have the best assistance or any pertinent workforce needs.