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USFSP Alumni Make ‘USF Fast 56’ List – University of South Florida S...

The USF System hosted its fourth annual US Fast 56 Awards on April 29. The awards, which identify, recognize and celebrate the world's fastest-growing USF alumni-owned or led businesses, also provide a forum for future Bull entrepreneurs to learn from established Bull entrepreneurs and business leaders.

Three of those recognized included USFSP alumni:

- **No. 30 – Bessolo Design Group, Inc.** One of the company leaders is Chief Financial Officer Mardi Bessolo, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting/MIS in 1999. The group provides original customer designs and creative architectural solutions that enhance the lives of users and residents from new and renovated facilities.

- **No. 48 – Allen Industries.** The company is led by Vice President and Division President David Allen, who graduated with a master's degree in Business Administration in 2014. Allen Industries, which designs, engineers, manufactures and installs innovative, high-quality signage and building elements across both domestically and internationally, has three locations in addition to the Clearwater Store, which opened in the late 80s.

- **No. 51 – ClearTrust, LLC.** The company is led by Executive Director and co-founder Kara Kennedy, who received a bachelor's degree in Finance with a focus in International Business in 2010, and Financial Controller and co-founder Juan Osorio, who received a bachelor's degree in Economics with a focus in International Business in 2009. ClearTrust, LLC is an independent stock transfer agent serving listed, over-the-counter, and private equity issuers.

To qualify for the award, a business must have been in operation for at least 36 months, have verifiable revenue of at least $250,000 for the most recent 12-month period, and be owned or operated by a former USF Student.

Bessolo Design Group, Inc. and ClearTrust, LLC, are returning award recipients, won in both 2014 and 2015. Allen Industries is a first-time honoree in 2016.
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