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USFSP ALUMNI MAKE 'USF FAST 56' LIST



2016 USF Fast 56 award recipients. Image courtesy of the USF Alumni Association. Photo by Jay Nolan.

The USF System hosted its fourth annual [USF 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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