

August 2016 Chesapeake Business Forum Summary

By Corinne Stephens, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Business Partnerships Manager

Over 60 people from businesses, non-profits, and government agencies participated in the August 17, 2016 Chesapeake Business Forum at the Luck Companies Learning Center outside of Richmond, VA. We had a packed house, lively discussions, lots of networking, and great food! Our Keynote Speaker and *Businesses for the Bay* Networking Partner, Dr. Jorge Ribas, President & CEO of the Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, started off the day with a unique presentation about the importance of involving businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, in local environmental initiatives.

We also heard from Brian Herrington, Esq., Director of Government Affairs at The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Brian discussed the background and development of Scotts Miracle-Gro's "Water Positive Landscapes" Initiative program (one of *Businesses for the Bay's* newest partnerships). The event concluded with an interactive tour of the Luck Companies – Corporate Campus' green initiatives where participants saw and learned first-hand that businesses really can have a lasting positive impact on our local environment. To download presentations and see photos from the event, please visit our website: <http://businesses.allianceforthebay.org/event/2016-virginia-chesapeake-business-forum-linking-businesses-chesapeake-bay>.

Businesses for the Bay, a membership association designed by businesses for businesses, provides businesses with a forum where they can make their voices heard, share best practices, facilitate environmental stewardship volunteer opportunities for employees, potentially save money, reach social and sustainability goals, and promote environmental efforts that are important to them, their customers, and their communities. For more info about *Businesses for the Bay*, please visit: <http://businesses.allianceforthebay.org> or contact me at B4B@allianceforthebay.org.