

Inaugural FTZ 25 Workshop – Learn, Connect, and Network

FTZ 25 - Broward County, Port Everglades – Catherine Durda Award

Event Submission

Event Summary:

In my first year as FTZ 25 Manager, I led the initiative to host the zone's Inaugural FTZ 25 Workshop on April 29, 2026, at the Broward County Convention Center. This event brought together current FTZ 25 clients, prospective clients, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and industry experts for an educational, collaborative, and relationship-building session. The workshop provided attendees with a valuable opportunity to connect directly with our local CBP team, gain insight into current FTZ developments and industry trends, and learn from experienced FTZ professionals. Prospective clients also had the opportunity to hear firsthand from current FTZ users about the benefits of FTZ designation and connect with compliance providers and other resources to help them begin the FTZ process.

Who was invited?

We were advised that the workshop could not be a public event and would need to remain closed to the public for CBP representatives to participate, particularly since the event was held during a federal government shutdown. As a result, attendance was intentionally limited to individuals and organizations that directly supported or added value to FTZ 25, including current and prospective FTZ 25 clients, CBP representatives, FTZ experts, compliance providers, consultants, attorneys, real estate professionals, and other key industry partners. This targeted approach enabled meaningful industry engagement while providing a focused environment for education, relationship-building, and collaboration.

Presenters:



The workshop featured a diverse group of presenters who provided valuable perspectives on the role, compliance, and impact of the FTZ program. A County Commissioner highlighted the importance of FTZ 25 in supporting local businesses and strengthening the region's ability to compete in the global marketplace. The Assistant Port Director provided insight into the Port's role in supporting the program, while CBP officers delivered a presentation focused on FTZ compliance, regulatory requirements, and best practices. Industry experts also shared specialized knowledge and current market perspectives. Arcelio Gerardo of FTZ World Services presented on emerging industry trends and developments affecting Foreign-Trade Zone users. At the same time, Michelle Terorotua of Compass Logistics Marine provided insight into the application and benefits of FTZs within the marina industry. Current FTZ 25 client Quirch Foods, LLC, shared a compelling success story, highlighting how their business experienced significant growth within just one year of FTZ designation. That growth ultimately led the company to expand its FTZ operations to additional locations in Miami, Texas, and California. Their experience provided prospective clients with a firsthand example of how the FTZ program can support business growth, operational expansion, and competitiveness in the global marketplace.

What was the result of this event? Include how many people attended.

The workshop generated meaningful outcomes for FTZ 25 and the businesses it serves. County leadership gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of the FTZ program and its role in supporting regional economic development and global competitiveness. Current FTZ clients had a rare opportunity to directly engage with and build relationships with their local CBP team, strengthening communication and collaboration around compliance and operations. The workshop also directly advanced business development efforts, with prospective clients expressing their commitment to pursue FTZ site designation following the event. Attendees left with a stronger understanding of the FTZ program, industry trends, compliance requirements, and the tools, resources, and professional connections available to help them successfully establish and operate within an FTZ. Overall, the event strengthened relationships, generated new business leads, and positioned FTZ 25 as a valuable resource for businesses seeking to grow and compete in the global marketplace. This event served as the debut of the FTZ 25's first logo and branded marketing materials. There were approximately 75 attendees.



