

Connections: Our chambers

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News for the Connections page is produced by our area chambers and coordinated by business reporter Yvonne McClellan. Send news and photos to business@news-press.com and put Chambers in the subject line. For questions, call 335-0492.



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

European American Network members and guests gathered to listen to Southwest Florida university presidents talk about higher education at its luncheon in Bonita Springs on March 15. From left: Rick Barber with Civil Engineering Co., Jeffery Allbritten, president Naples campus Edison State College; Trish Leonard with European American Network; Barry Nichols with Paradise Jewelers; and Terry McMahon, Hodges University president.

5951 Silver King Blvd., Cape Coral

• **Details:** Call 549-6900 for more information

European American Network

European American Network members and guests enjoyed a candid discussion on higher education at the group's monthly luncheon March 15.

About 45 members and guests gathered to hear Wilson Bradshaw, president of Florida Gulf Coast University; Terry McMahon, president of Hodges University; and Jeffrey Allbritten, president of Edison State College's Collier campus, discuss the importance of emphasizing higher education while students are in high school, middle school and even elementary school, said Trish Leonard, president of the network. The panelists also discussed growing concerns on funding for colleges and universities and future tuition increases.

Mei-Mei Chan, The News-Press Media Group publisher, moderated the discussion.

Each of the university presidents discussed the role of international studies on their campuses and the partnerships they have with European countries.

Leonard said the event informed Europeans that are living here about higher education in Southwest Florida and builds the credibility of our universities. It also served to estab-

lish the European Network as a resource to Southwest Florida universities as they continue to foster relationships with Europeans in the local community, she said.

Upcoming European American Network Event

Member Luncheon

• **What:** A Win-Win Situation: The importance of direct connections between Germany and Southwest Florida; guest speakers: Eva

Countess Kendeffy, consul general of the Federal Republic of Germany in Miami; Robert M. Ball, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority

• **When:** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. April 19

• **Where:** Bonita Bay Club-house Fireside Room, 26660 Country Club Drive, Bonita Springs

• **Details:** \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers; call 398-9999 for more information or visit EuropeanAmericanNetwork.com to RSVP.