

LWDB 20, CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) Workforce Readiness Taskforce QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Quarter 4, 2024

Date of meeting: December 5, 2024

Report prepared by: Christina Coble, CSRC Business Services Manager

Local workforce development board contact: Christina Coble, Business Services Manager

Date: 12/18/2024

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Bill Wilcox	Phoenix Metal Products	Manufacturing	772-595-6586 Bill.wilcox@earthlink.net
Linda Fitzpatrick	Keiser University	Keiser University	772-398-9900 lfitzpatrick@keiseruniversity.edu
Lana Barros	Martin County School District	Martin County School District	772-219-1200 barrosl@martinschools.org
Prashanth Pilly	Indian River State College	Indian River State College	772-462-7212 ppilly@irsc.edu
Kristine Burr	School District of Indian River County	School District of Indian River County	772-564-4970 Kristine.burr@indianriverschools.org
Karen Giovengo	HCA Lawnwood Hospital	Healthcare	772-468-4500 Karen.giovengo@healthcare.com

Aliesha Seitz	St. Lucie Public Schools	St. Lucie Public Schools	772-429-5559 Aliesha.seitz@stlucieschools.org
Name	Organization	Industry or Education	Contact Information
Christi Shields	Treasure Coast Technical College	Treasure Coast Technical College	772-564-5006 Chirsti.shields@indianriverschools.org
Dana Caputo (guest presenter)	St. Lucie Public Schools	St. Lucie Public Schools	
Anita Fischer (guest)	Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County	Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County	
Kevin Farrell (guest presenter)	Martin County School District	Martin County School District	
Helene Caseltine (guest)	Indian River County Chamber of Commerce	Indian River County Chamber of Commerce	
Jessica Warren (guest)	Martin County School District	Martin County School District	
Christina Coble (guest)	CareerSource Research Coast	CareerSource Research Coast	
Jennifer Eimann	CareerSource Research Coast	CareerSource Research Coast	

B. SUMMARY REPORT

1. Summary analysis of the local labor market based on the industry representative needs and education offerings. (Provide summary)

As a result of feedback received and to engage the Taskforce in providing input and take action regarding local labor market needs within their individual industries, an overview and explanation of CSRCs Local Targeted Occupations

List (LTOL) was presented, including how it is used locally, and how the Taskforce members may be able to contribute to shaping it.

The review included background information stating that the FloridaCommerce Bureau of Labor Market Statistics (LMS) publishes Florida's statewide demand occupations list and local area demand occupations lists of high growth/high wage occupations in demand annually. These lists are used by local workforce development boards (LWDBs) to create a local targeted occupations list (LTOL). A LTOL is a list of occupations in demand based on high growth and/or high wages in the local area. Each LWDB can use LMS's demand occupations list and other resources to develop their LTOL.

Specifically, the LTOL outlines the occupations that LWDB20/CareerSource Research Coast (CSRC) can consider for funding for training purposes using the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant. For example, if the WIOA grant is spent on an on-the-job training opportunity with an employer through subsidizing the salary of somebody that that employer hires and is willing to train, the occupation the job seeker is being trained for must appear on the LTOL.

Likewise, if CSRC is funding tuition, books or fees for students in educational programs at one of our local post-secondary institutions such as IRSC, Keiser, Treasure Coast Technical College, Fortis, and TCMI using WIOA funds, the program of study must align with one of the occupations that appear on the LTOL.

As an action item, the current occupations on the LTOL were reviewed, and Taskforce members were provided a current copy of the LTOL and asked to review the list for occupations related to their industry sectors. If the members recognize any occupational omissions in their industry of focus, they should reach out to Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, and work with the Business Services team to see if labor market information data supports adding the occupations(s) to the LTOL. Additions to LTOL are reviewed quarterly and must go through the CSRC Board of Directors for approval.

Publishing a complete and accurate list of occupations in demand in the local area will ensure training funds are used appropriately to meet industry and educational needs and support the local labor market.

2. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area. (Provide summary)

A follow-up discussion regarding the state Master Credentials List was held. Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, explained that the Master Credentials List is a comprehensive list of state-approved degree and non-degree credentials of value that prepare Floridians for in-demand occupations. The Master Credentials List application is open year-round for local workforce development boards to submit credentials for consideration and remove those no longer eligible.

As an update to the current review status of credentials at the state level, credentials flagged for removal from the Master Credentials List will not be removed until two years after they are flagged, so there is time for the consortium members/industry partners to discuss further how their removal from the Master Credentials List could impact credentialing requirements for hiring purposes and submit documentation to have them reinstated under local demand. Previously, flagged credentials would be removed in a one-year time frame. Additionally, the state's most recent state Local Targeted Occupations List is now used when determining demand for credentials, which has allowed for the reinstatement of many credentials previously flagged for removal.

There were 447 credentials originally flagged for removal, and there are currently 145 left. To prevent credentials from being removed, submissions must be completed by December 1st, 2025.

Ms. Coble encouraged the members to review the Master Credentials List and reach out to her in an effort to collect data/ and analyze data so that those requests can be submitted to the state for consideration.

Prashanth Pilly, Associate Vice Provost Academic Affairs, Indian River State College, stated that he is working in conjunction with representatives of other State Colleges in Florida to determine the best entities/areas of the state to put forth local demand considerations for credentials pending removal. He will continue to update CSRC and the Workforce Readiness Taskforce about their work so that we can support those applications, as needed, at the local level.

3. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations. (Provide summary)

A discussion occurred regarding local school districts' Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs as a source of talent for local targeted industry sectors. As one focus of the Workforce Readiness Taskforce is identifying existing talent pipelines within our region, CTE programs provide trained talent with industry-recognized credentials. By increasing awareness of and enhancing industry partnerships with the high schools in the region, employers may better address their workforce needs.

During the meeting, each regional school district (St. Lucie, Indian River and Martin Counties) provided a brief overview of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs offered within their districts' high schools and information regarding how local business partners can become more involved.

A. Dana Caputo, Program Specialist, St. Lucie Public Schools, presented slides outlining all CTE programs for the six high schools in St. Lucie County. Additionally, she shared highlights of specific programs with the group to further explain the coursework contained within each:

- New additions to the St. Lucie West Centennial High School Career and Technical Education program are Aerospace, Early Childhood, and Marine Technology.
- Port St. Lucie High School offers Allied Health Assisting, a premier program, Nursing Assistant, and Biomedical Sciences. The high school also looks forward to partnering with Keiser University for its the Biomedical Sciences program of study, bringing together secondary and post-secondary students to work on applicable experiments and share knowledge and data.
- Fort Pierce Central High School offers Aerospace and Aviation, a long-standing program that has existed for 10+ years. It is a partnership between Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Fort Pierce Central High School, and St. Lucie Public Schools. Students study robotics and drone technology and can earn a drone safety industry certification.

Ms. Caputo stressed that all programs aim to prepare the student for success in college (any college) or direct entry into professional trades. She invited industry partners who want to get involved with these programs to contact Aliesha Seitz, Director of Career and Technical Education, for more information about joining an advisory board that brings the schools and employers together and provides advice, guidance, and support.

- B. Kristine Burr, Career and Technical Education Program Specialist, Indian River County Public Schools, presented information outlining the CTE programs for both high schools in Indian River County. She also provided additional details and highlights about several of the CTE programs offered.

Sebastian River High School offers a Promotional Enterprise program which is a school-based business that produces T-shirts, banners, and signs via a direct-to-garment printer. This program provides students with hands-on business experience and academic and technical skills for the job market.

Aerospace Technologies is also offered at Sebastian River High School. This program prepares students for opportunities in the aerospace and aeronautics industry. Students learn skills in testing, assembling, repairing, maintaining, or operating aircraft and spacecraft. The Aerospace Technologies program allows students to earn multiple industry certifications, such as Unmanned Aircraft Safety Certification, Visual Line of Sight System Operator, and FAA Private Pilot Ground School. The Unmanned Aircraft Safety Certification and the FAA Private Pilot Ground School can articulate into Gold Standard Career Pathways credit towards AS/AAS degrees.

Ms. Burr invited the taskforce members/employers to contact her for information on how to be involved in mentoring students and helping to develop leadership and technical skill competencies through motivation, awareness, and recognition, which is an integral part of the CTE programs offered.

- C. Kevin Farrell, Workforce Coach, Martin County School District, presented slides outlining the CTE programs for the three high schools in Martin County.

Mr. Farrell stated that Martin County is a diverse community, and the programs offered are designed to attract, retain, and grow students to be future-ready, which is also in alignment with their strategic plan. He provided additional details and highlights regarding the offered programs.

Jensen Beach High School offers Aerospace Technology, Engineering, Hospitality, and Tourism. Mr. Farrell explained that these programs provide career education instruction designed to strengthen and integrate basic academic skills, career and technical skills, and occupational awareness.

Martin County High School's Culinary Arts program is popular with students. Mr. Farrell also explained that the three high schools have robust Medical/Nursing programs.

South Fork High School offers numerous skilled trade programs such as HVACR (Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, & Heating) Technician, Agri-Technology, Automotive & Marine Technology, Building Construction Technology, Communications Technology, Digital Video Production, and Landscape Operations.

Mr. Farrell stressed that these programs empower students to chart individualized paths and access advanced academic and career options by offering these unique programs. This commitment to innovative education ensures students are well-prepared for future success in college, careers, and beyond.