

Workforce Readiness Taskforce Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2025

Open Meeting

1. Welcome & Attendance (Education & Industry Consortium Members)
2. Martin County School District Five-Year Strategic Plan Presentation
3. Master Credentials List Update and Discussion
4. Discussion Regarding Sector Focused Upcoming Meetings

Sector Updates: Open to the Floor

Adjournment - Next Meeting June 5, 2025

Consortium Members Present:

None - Virtual Meeting Only

Consortium Members Participating by Teleconference:

Lana Barros Karen Giovengo Bill Wilcox
Prasanth Pilly

Consortium Members Excused:

Taylor Hoskins Aliesha Seitz Eric Swiechowski
Linda Fitzpatrick Kristine Burr Christi Shields

Public Present/Teleconference:

Lana Barros Anita Fischer Ann Hubbard
 Helene Caseltine

Administrative Staff Present/Teleconference:

Christina Coble Jennifer Eimann

Call to Order:

Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
Attendance was taken.

Agenda Item 2 - Martin County School District Five-Year Strategic Plan Presentation:

Lana Barros, Director of Innovation & Choice, presented a PowerPoint on the Martin County School District's five-year strategic plan. The following information was provided:

Martin County's Strategic Plan was designed to address the district's needs, be flexible, and support each school's improvement plan and the District's Accreditation over the next five years, and emphasizes data-driven resource allocation, stakeholder engagement, and preparing students for future careers through career and technical education. Martin County School District focuses on five strategic themes to guide systemic priorities and initiatives, aiming to become Florida's preeminent school system.

- **Envisioning:** Engage team and stakeholders in future thinking to go beyond short-term fixes and imagine what your school can be
- **Planning:** Create a plan that closes the gaps between your current reality and your vision for the future
- **Implementing:** The theory of action will guide concrete action steps with clear roles and responsibilities for your team
- **Evaluating:** Evaluate how successfully your plan was implemented, analyze outcomes, and adjust the next steps

The implementation phase is underway, and metrics have been established to track progress in equipping students with the necessary skills and certifications for local job markets and post-secondary education.

A significant focus of Ms. Barros' presentation was on the effectiveness of workplace readiness initiatives. Ms. Barros highlighted a notable increase in college and career readiness metrics linked to the Florida Ready to Work program, although challenges remain in securing internships due to business hesitance.

Prashanth Pilly stressed the need for employers to adapt to the evolving needs of students. The conversation also touched on the Career Readiness Summit, which aims to align educational outcomes with industry requirements.

Agenda Item 3 - Master Credentials List Update and Discussion:

Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, gave an update on the Master Credential List. The Master Credentials List serves as a public and transparent inventory of state-approved credentials of value, directs the use of federal and state funds for workforce education and training programs that lead to approved credentials of value, and guides workforce education and training programs by informing the public of the credentials that have value in the current or future job market.

Ms. Coble further explained that the Master Credentials List application is open year-round for Florida school districts, Florida College System institutions, and local workforce development boards to submit credentials for consideration and remove those no longer eligible.

Ms. Coble stated that 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 Local Targeted Occupations List is now used when determining demand for credentials, allowing for reinstating many credentials previously flagged for removal.

Ms. Coble stated that 144 credentials are currently flagged for removal from the Master Credentials List, meaning that they're on the list currently but are at risk of being removed.

Agenda Item 4 - Discussion Regarding Sector Focused Upcoming Meetings:

Christina Coble, Business Services Manager, stated that future meetings will adopt a new format concentrating on specific sectors such as skilled trades, manufacturing, transportation, logistics and healthcare, allowing for targeted discussions, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among individuals or groups within that sector.

Sector Updates (Open to the Floor):

Christina Coble shared on behalf of Aliesha Seitz that the St. Lucie County School District is involved in the following events:

- Industry Certification Testing
- Planning upcoming career fairs April 8th and 22nd, for high school juniors and seniors.
- Celebrated Career and Technical Education Month in February 2025.
- In conjunction with the Economic Development Council, they hosted a “Lunch and Learn” and bus tour where teachers, guidance counselors, and school administrators toured the Amazon and Walmart Distribution Centers, as well as HCA.

Lana Barros shared that the St. Lucie County School District signed an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Space Florida Economic Committee. The Space Florida Academy Program offers a new trajectory for students to explore careers in aerospace by breaking down legacy perceptions of what an aerospace career requires.

Bill Wilcox, Phoenix Metals, shared that, as an employer, he sees a lack of soft skills like communication, problem-solving, and adaptability, which are crucial, alongside technical skills, for a successful and productive workforce.

Leslie Haviland, Cleveland Clinic, introduced herself and explained that she is now working for the Center for Workforce Development with Cleveland Clinic, and is looking forward to working with the taskforce members.

Adjournment:

With no further items to discuss, Christina adjourned the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

BOARD STAFF CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that these minutes reflect the proceedings of the Workforce Readiness Taskforce.

Christina Coble
Board Staff

Date