

# CareerSource Flagler Volusia EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report quarter:** Quarter 1

**Date of meeting:** January 30, 2024

**Report prepared by:** Thomas LaFlore and Trish McGetrick

**Local workforce development board contact:** Trish McGetrick **Date:** 2/12/2024

## B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Michael Nieto	Daytona State College	Education	Michael.Nieto@daytonastate.edu
Jeffery Jurinak	Health First	Industry	Jeffrey.Jurinak@hf.org
Renee Kirkland	Flagler Technical College	Education	kirklandr@flaglerschools.com
Serena Fisher	Halifax Health	Industry	Serena.Fisher2@halifax.org
Juan Avendano	FL Institute of Technology	Education	javendan@fit.edu
Lorri Benjamin	Brevard Public Schools – Adult Education	Education	Benjamin.Lorri@Brevardschools.org
Bliss Jamison	SEVMTC	Industry	Bliss@sevmtc.com

Vincent Roeshink (Sub for Kristen Pierce)	Volusia County Schools	Education	vjroeshi@volusia.k12.fl.us
Nicole Stumbo	Davita Laboratories	Industry	Nicole.Stumbo@davita.com
Amy Sullivan	Indian River Networks	Industry	amy.sullivan@indianrivernetworks.com
Rachel Rutledge	Brevard Schools	Education	Rutledge.Rachel@Brevardschools.org
Guest – Thomas LaFlore	CareerSource Brevard	Workforce	tlafore@careersourcebrevard.com
Guest – Lori Robinson	CareerSource Brevard	Workforce	lrobinson@careersourcebrevard.com
Guest – Michelle Jones	CareerSource Brevard	Workforce	mjjones@careersourcebrevard.com
Guest – Robin King	CareerSource Flagler Volusia	Workforce	robinking@careersourcefv.com
Guest – James Alvarado	CareerSource Flagler Volusia	Workforce	jamesalvarado@careersourcefv.com
Guest – Trish McGetrick	CareerSource Flagler Volusia	Workforce	trishmcgetrick@careersourcefv.com

**B. SUMMARY REPORT**

The Education & Industry Consortium met on January 30th, 2024, convening both in-person and virtually, to discuss the current talent development needs of industry leaders and the programs available to address these needs as presented by educational representatives.

Labor market information (LMI) was provided by representatives from workforce development for key industries, including Healthcare, Business & Professional, Manufacturing, and Construction. The information encompassed average wages, top skills, and details on the leading employers within each sector in the three-county region comprising Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard Counties.

Bliss Jameson (SEVMTC) raised a question about average ages in industry sectors, indicating a desire for demographic insights to inform workforce strategies. Jeffery Jurinak (Health First) emphasized the importance of understanding the capabilities of the LMI program "Lightcast," suggesting age ranges would be beneficial for planning purposes. He expressed surprise at the projected demand in the healthcare sector and requested information on the projected inflow to the region to align workforce planning efforts accordingly.

Rachal Rutledge (Brevard Public schools) highlighted the need for LMI on new and emerging industries in IT and Aerospace to inform program development in schools. This underscores the importance of adapting education offerings to meet evolving industry demands and aligning educational programs with emerging sectors to prepare students for future opportunities.

The conversation shifted towards exploring educational solutions to address the talent pipeline needs for in-demand occupations. Mike Nieto from Daytona State College brought attention to the challenges expressed by local businesses in recruiting talent for the sewing industry, especially with boating and parachute manufacturing businesses. He emphasized the potential of the veteran population and returning citizens as viable pipelines to address these challenges.

Lorri Benjamin, (Director of Adult and Community Education at Brevard Public Schools), raised concerns about the inclusion of sewing skills on the master credential list for certification eligibility, and Rachel Rutledge (Brevard Public Schools) noted the discontinuation of sewing programs in their county due to a perceived

lack of community need, reflecting the ongoing challenge of aligning education offerings with industry demands, and the discrepancies between the Flagler/Volusia and Brevard County's workforce needs.

Jeffery Jurinak (Health First) highlighted challenges in filling licensed and certified positions, particularly in the healthcare sector that operates "24/7," indicating a critical demand for skilled healthcare professionals across all hours of operation.

Nicole Stumbo (Davita Laboratories) emphasized the pressing need for soft skills development, focusing on personal accountability, critical thinking, and professional communication. Additionally, she underscored the importance of talent development, noting the impact of the aging population on workforce sustainability and the necessity for increased awareness of available career pathways to address succession planning challenges.

Amy Sullivan (Indian River Networks) reiterated the need for soft skills and "real-world" skills, emphasizing project-based learning and the ability to comprehend information independently. She stressed the importance of "flexible skills" such as adaptability and continuous learning to meet evolving industry demands effectively.

Vincent Roeshink (Volusia County Schools) highlighted the availability of various career program clusters and stressed the importance of defining the specific soft skills needed by sector to inform program development effectively.

Juan Avendano (Florida Institute of Technology) emphasized the school's proactive approach in addressing industry needs through project-based learning initiatives tailored to specific skill requirements identified by the business community.

Overall, the consortium discussions underscored the importance of aligning education offerings with industry demands, identifying alternative talent pipelines, and prioritizing soft skill development initiatives to meet the needs of local industries effectively.

Concluding the meeting, attendees were urged to bring their valuable insights and contributions to the next quarter's consortium on April 30, 2024. These include recent job postings, insights into upcoming projects affecting workforce needs, and feedback from past collaborations with educational institutions. Additionally, suggestions for training programs, internships, and innovative teaching methods were encouraged.