

CareerSource North Central Florida EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: FY 25 4th Quarter

Date of meeting: 06/18/2025

Report prepared by: Jessica McCrae

Local workforce development board contact: Christina Brown

Date: 06/18/2025

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	<u>Organization</u>	Industry or Education <u>Organization</u>	Contact Information _____
Lisa Anderson — Chair (Virtual Attendance)	Santa Fe College	Education	Lisa.anderson@sfcollege.edu 352-381-7297
Brent Ferns (In-person Attendance)	Santa Fe College	Education	Brent.ferns@sfcollege.edu 352-395-5428
Kevin Clarke (Virtual Attendance)	Meridian Healthcare	Healthcare Industry	Kevin.clarke@mbhci.org 352-618-9751
Anita Rembert (Virtual Attendance)	Trenton Medical Center, dba Palms Medical Group	Healthcare Industry	Arembert@palmsmq.org 352-463-4501
Laura Guyer (Virtual Attendance)	UF Dept. Of Community Health and Family Medicine	Education/ Healthcare Industry	Lkguyer@ufl.edu 352-332-0523

Ryan Wilder (Virtual Attendance)	NCCER	Construction Industry	Rwilder@nccer.org
Sean McLendon (Virtual Attendance)	Alachua County Economic Development	Economic Development	Smclendon@alachuacounty.us 352-374-5204
<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	Industry or Education	Contact Information
Christina Brown — LWDB Contact (Virtual Attendance)	CareerSource NCFL	LWDB	Cbrown@careersourcencfl.com 352-955-2245
Diane Burke (In-person Attendance)	CareerSource NCFL	LWDB	Dburke@careersourcencfl.com 352-955-2245
Jason Buss (In-person Attendance)	CareerSource NCFL	LWDB	Jbuss@careersourcencfl.com 352-955-2245
Jessica McCrae (In-person Attendance)	CareerSource NCFL	LWDB	Jmccrae@careersourcencfl.com 352-955-2245

B. SUMMARY REPORT

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

The local labor market is undergoing a shift driven by technological change, evolving workforce expectations, and geographic challenges. Industry representatives and education partners identified several key areas of need and opportunity:

1a. There is a growing demand for training in artificial intelligence (AI), which is seen as critical to maintaining workforce relevance. Industry

voices emphasized the need for advanced AI skills, and Santa Fe College acknowledged that staying current with technological trends is essential. This reflects an emerging labor market priority for digital competencies across sectors.

1b. Limited access to reliable internet in rural areas continues to hinder participation in education and training programs. To address this, CareerSource North Central Florida is expanding physical presence in rural counties and promoting the use of libraries and other community spaces with secure internet access. These steps aim to close the digital divide and ensure equitable access to training opportunities.

1c. Employers consistently report a lack of essential soft skills, ie. emotional intelligence, communication, teamwork, and adaptability, among job seekers. In response, Santa Fe College stated they are building this into their Courses, and CSNCFL is utilizing platforms like Metrix Learning to provide broader access, including in rural settings.

1d. Despite having high-demand, high-wage programs like Health Information Technology listed on the ETPL and Master Credential List, enrollment remains low. This suggests a potential disconnect between labor market data, community awareness, and actual employer needs. It highlights the importance of aligning training offerings not just with projected demand, but also with real-time job opportunities and community engagement.

1 e. Consortium members stressed the need for a regional, data-informed workforce strategy that reflects the needs of each community. By aligning education with industry demand and watching the pipeline, the region Will be prepared to better assist job seekers, and support employers. can better prepare job seekers and support employers. The Consortium will serve as the collaborative to further align the ETPL, credential offerings and outreach strategies.

2. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.

Being that this was the first Education and Industry Consortium this will be further discussed in the next meeting, at which point we hope to have all the seats filled. Currently missing a representative from Information Technology, Transportation and Logistics, and Hospitality. Several Consortium members have contacts that they believe would be interested in joining.

3. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations.

Will further discuss in the next meeting, there was mention that some of the current occupations listed as in-demand, as well as high skill, high wage, were not seeing the enrollment engagement, nor were jobs being posted, Health Information Technology was used as an example.