



EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Q1

Date of meeting: 9/3/2025

Report prepared by: Terri Clark

Local workforce development board contact: Terri Clark **Date:** 9/3/2025

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Laura Roberts	Manatee Technical College	Education	RobertsL@manateeschools.net
Mireya Eavey	Credit Union 1	Finance Industry	Mireya.eavey@creditunion1.org
Ron Serpliss	State College of Florida	Education	serplis@scf.edu
Jennifer Harmon	Centerstone	Healthcare Industry	jennifer.harmon@centerstone.org
Darby Larkin	Suncoast Technical College	Education	darby.larkin@sarasotacountyschools.net
Christina Witt	CS Suncoast	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	cwitt@careersourcesc.com

James Disbro	CS Suncoast	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	jdisbro@careersourcesc.com
Terri Clark	CS Suncoast/ TClark Workforce Solutions	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	tclark@careersourcesc.com
Kelli Kennedy	School District Manatee	Education	kkennedy@manateeschools.net

B. SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Education and Industry Consortium Committee (EICC) convened on Wednesday, September 3, 2025, for its quarterly meeting, held via Teams. The agenda included updates from various members regarding workforce initiatives and educational developments. James Disbro reported on the local workforce board's activities, highlighting successful programs such as the Ticket to Work initiative and a summer work experience program that engaged 116 out-of-school youth. Christina Witt provided details on a recent job fair that attracted over 200 job seekers and announced upcoming events aimed at promoting local entrepreneurship and supporting employers in talent acquisition through a transportation grant. Terri Clark emphasized the need for collaboration among industry, education, and workforce boards to enhance apprenticeship programs statewide.

Updates from educational institutions included Laura Roberts' announcement of strong enrollment numbers at Manatee Technical College and the appointment of Dr. Jodi Kirk as the new director. Kelli Kennedy shared the success of a district-wide training for middle school career and technical teachers and the approval of a new pre-apprenticeship program. Ronald Serpliss reported on positive enrollment trends at the State College of Florida and recent personnel changes, while Darby Larkin discussed developments at the Northport campus, including a new fire academy facility and increased enrollment in apprenticeship programs. Challenges in staffing were highlighted by Jennifer Harmon from Centerstone, who noted difficulties in recruiting nursing staff due to low pay and high housing costs, despite successfully bringing in psychology residents. Terri Clark

addressed the need for strong representatives from the construction and manufacturing sectors in upcoming committee rotations and suggested leveraging the Suncoast Board of Directors for potential candidates. The meeting concluded with a reminder for members to share activities for Workforce Development Month.

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

Mireya Eavey (finance sector) shared insights on the banking and finance sector, emphasizing the rise in salaries for new hires and the benefits of hybrid work arrangements. She pointed out that the industry is increasingly moving towards digital solutions, leading to a decrease in physical bank locations. Additionally, she mentioned that her credit union is experiencing growth and is involved in multiple mergers.

- Challenges in staffing within the healthcare sector and the impact of living costs on recruitment.

Jennifer Harmon (healthcare sector) highlighted ongoing staffing issues at Centerstone, noting that the organization has struggled to hire nurses since the pandemic, with only one new hire in six months. She pointed out that the high cost of living and low wages are major barriers to recruitment. In contrast, Centerstone has successfully onboarded a large number of psychology residents, indicating some success in attracting talent in that area.

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

- James Disbro will present on apprenticeship programs at the Workforce Summit next week in Orlando.
- Christina Witt will send the flyer for the Paychecks for Patriots hiring event.
- Laura Roberts will host the campus-wide advisory committee breakfast on October 13th at Manatee Technical College.
- Kelli Kennedy will submit the application for the building and construction apprenticeship pre-apprenticeship program to the state.
- Darby Larkin will provide updates on the new fire academy being built at Knights Trail as it progresses.
- Terri Clark will connect Jennifer Harmon with the nursing advisory committees at SCF, MTC, and STC to facilitate introductions and collaboration.