



## EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report quarter:** Q2

**Date of meeting:** 11/12/2025

**Report prepared by:** Terri Clark

**Local workforce development board contact:** Terri Clark **Date:** 11/13/2025

### B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Laura Roberts	Manatee Technical College	Education	<a href="mailto:Roberts1@manateeschools.net">Roberts1@manateeschools.net</a>
Mireya Eavey	Credit Union 1	Finance Industry	<a href="mailto:Mireya.eavey@creditunion1.org">Mireya.eavey@creditunion1.org</a>
Rob Harris	SAMA	Manufacturing	<a href="mailto:Executivedirector@sama.org">Executivedirector@sama.org</a>
Jennifer Harmon	Centerstone	Healthcare Industry	<a href="mailto:jennifer.harmon@centerstone.org">jennifer.harmon@centerstone.org</a>
Justin Erickson (guest)	ROOTS Engineering	Manufacturing Industry	<a href="mailto:justinee@roots.co">justinee@roots.co</a>
Christina Witt	CS Suncoast	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	<a href="mailto:cwitt@careersourcesc.com">cwitt@careersourcesc.com</a>

James Disbro	CS Suncoast	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	<a href="mailto:jdisbro@careersourcesc.com">jdisbro@careersourcesc.com</a>
Terri Clark	CS Suncoast/ TClark Workforce Solutions	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	<a href="mailto:tclark@careersourcesc.com">tclark@careersourcesc.com</a>
Kelli Kennedy	School District Manatee	Education	<a href="mailto:kkennedy@manateeschools.net">kkennedy@manateeschools.net</a>

## B. SUMMARY REPORT

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

The EICC convened on Wednesday, November 11, 2025, for its Q2 meeting, which took place via Teams.

The agenda featured updates from various members on workforce initiatives and educational progress. Terri Clark presented an overview of the Components of a Registered Apprenticeship Program, emphasizing the roles that all representatives play in relation to the local workforce board, educational providers responsible for related technical instruction, and industry partners for on-the-job training.

Discussions focused on the newly approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs within the CS Suncoast area, including line cook, nursing, and robotics technician programs. James Disbro shared updates on several community engagement opportunities that CareerSource is pursuing to raise awareness of the various apprenticeship programs available in the region.

The committee reviewed Florida Commerce Labor data, discussing industries that have experienced job growth over the past year. Notable sectors include health sciences, trade, transportation and utilities, financial activities, IT, construction, and manufacturing. The committee also addressed the trend of baby boomers leaving the workforce earlier than expected.

Additionally, the committee examined unemployment data for Manatee and Sarasota counties in comparison to the statewide average. The discussion

regarding 'unemployed' versus 'under-employed' highlighted that many individuals hold multiple 'gig work' jobs and are, therefore, considered 'under-employed.' However, they are not classified as 'unemployed.' CareerSource Suncoast utilizes the ALICE population data to gain a deeper understanding of 'under-employment' in the area.

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

Mireya Eavey (finance sector) provided valuable perspectives on the banking and finance industry, highlighting the growing demand for AI and advanced technological skills.

ROOTS Engineering is focused on developing training programs aimed at supporting middle managers in the manufacturing and operational sectors. There were discussions on how some of the learning outcomes could translate into transferable skills for other fields, including finance and healthcare.

The transportation sector is experiencing a surge in retirements, with the ATA reporting that the average age of a driver is 48 years.

Local manufacturers are showing reluctance to expand their workforce or training initiatives, opting to 'wait and see' what the next six to nine months may bring.

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

Utilizing Five-Year Projection Data for Occupations in the Regional Demand Occupation List: The committee reviewed the anticipated five-year industry growth percentages, along with the exits and transfers within the profession.

Recommendations included:

- Expanding technical college programs to reach more rural areas.
- Developing additional registered apprenticeship programs before employers recognize the demand.
- Implementing Learning Management Systems (LMS) to offer on-the-job training and RAP programs in an online, competency-based format.