



EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Q3

Date of meeting: 2/11/2026

Report prepared by: Terri Clark

Local workforce development board contact: Terri Clark Date: 2/12/2026

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Laura Roberts	Manatee Technical College	Education	Roberts1@manateeschools.net
Mireya Eavey	Credit Union 1	Finance Industry	Mireya.eavey@creditunion1.org
Rob Harris	SAMA	Manufacturing	Executivedirector@sama.org
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
Ron Serpliss	State College of Florida	Education	serpliss@scf.edu
Brandy Taylor (Guest)	CS Pasco Hernando	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	btaylor@careersourcepascohernando.com
Marsha Durden (Guest)	CS North Florida	Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB)	Marsha.durden@careersourcenorthflorida.com

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 February 11, 2026, for its Q3 meeting, which took place via Teams. The meeting convened the Q3 Suncoast Education & Industry Consortium to introduce partners, review regional education–industry collaboration, and share updates from technical colleges, school district CTE, community college workforce development, and industry liaisons. After roll call and guest introductions, the agenda covered employer and education updates, an apprenticeship survey, and public-comment items.

Manatee Technical College reported operational highlights including 357 East Campus open-house applicants, a main-campus career fair with about 60 employers expected, enrollment near 2,200 across adult education and career programs, new apprenticeships (electrical, instrumentation/PLC, plumbing, and an upcoming pharmacy technician with Manatee Memorial Hospital), a drone Part 107 training, a Tesla automotive partnership, and a new

aviation/construction building scheduled for construction completion in September 2026 and opening January 2027.

The group reviewed local labor metrics: Terri Clark presented a 4.3–4.4% unemployment rate contrasted with roughly 41% underemployment in Manatee and Sarasota counties, attributing underemployment to prevalence of low-wage jobs, multiple-job households, and local development patterns; Terri committed to researching the underemployment rubric and requested relevant data by email.

Ronald Serpliss announced a new associate degree in cybersecurity analysis starting in the fall and ongoing industry certification offerings tied to CAPE funding with scholarship support. He invited partners to collaborate on the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and offered to distribute industry surveys; Terri and Ron agreed to circulate the prior CLNA to committee members.

* SCF will start an associate-level cybersecurity analyst program in the fall and continues to offer industry certifications with scholarship support.

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

Mireya Eavey (finance sector) outlined a pilot employer financial-wellness program planned with CareerSource, the Chamber, CU1, and others. Rob Harris (manufacturing sector) and others discussed manufacturing outreach, automation preparedness, and apprenticeship pathways, while Roots Education's registered apprenticeships were noted. Kelli Kennedy reviewed extensive CTSO activity and upcoming industry certification testing, flagging a state list of disallowed certifications. James Disbro described low survey response from current apprenticeship sponsors, manual follow-ups by an Apprentice Navigator, and a regional goal of 3,000 active apprentices by 2030; CLNA coordination and reuse of a 2022 industry survey were also discussed.

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

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.

Unemployment versus underemployment discussion The group reviewed unemployment (4.4% national comparison) and then focused on underemployment figures supplied by JobsEQ, revealing ~41% underemployment in Manatee and Sarasota. Participants discussed causes including multiple gig jobs, low-wage service employment, and regional development patterns like Lakewood Ranch that skew statistics. Terri and Maria emphasized the policy and funding implications of the discrepancy between unemployment and underemployment measures.

* Manatee and Sarasota report roughly 41% of individuals self-identify as underemployed.

* An apprenticeship survey to current sponsors received few direct responses and follow-up outreach is underway by an Apprentice Navigator.

* CareerSource Suncoast aims to grow apprenticeships locally and plans an apprenticeship summit the last week of April in collaboration with neighboring CareerSource regions.