



# EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report quarter:**   Q4  

**Date of meeting:**   6/10/2026  

**Report prepared by:**   Terri Clark  

**Local workforce development board contact:**   Terri Clark   **Date:**   6/10/2026  

## 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>
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>
Ron Serpliss	State College of Florida	Education	<a href="mailto:serplisr@scf.edu">serplisr@scf.edu</a>
Jennifer Harmon	Centerstone of Florida	Healthcare	<a href="mailto:jharmon@centerstone.com">jharmon@centerstone.com</a>

## B. SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Q4 Education & Industry Consortium Committee (EICC) meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on June 10, 2026, with nine (9) participants in attendance. The meeting brought together workforce, education, and industry partners to discuss regional employment trends, workforce development priorities, and collaborative efforts to strengthen the talent pipeline. Attendees received updates from technical colleges, school district Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, community college workforce initiatives, and industry representatives. Following introductions and roll call, the committee reviewed employer and education partner updates, discussed apprenticeship-related initiatives and survey findings, and concluded with public comments and closing remarks.

### Partner Updates

Education and industry partners shared updates regarding workforce initiatives, employer engagement activities, and collaborative opportunities designed to strengthen the regional talent pipeline. Discussions highlighted the importance of maintaining strong communication and partnerships between educational institutions and employers.

MTC: 685 students eligible for June 25, 2026 graduation. Student success at Skills National Conference, Aviation program growth, and new Robotics Tech Apprenticeship program in partnership with ROOTS Engineering.

SCF: increase of 14% YTD enrollment for Fall 2026 semester. New Cybersecurity degree, and AI certification.

Manufacturing Sector: SAMA will have increased focus on supporting apprenticeships within the area.

Finance: AI continues to redefine roles within financial sector.

Healthcare: Continued employment needs, AI not a major impact as roles continue to remain patient focused, face to face.

### **Apprenticeship Accelerator Initiative**

Updates were provided regarding the CareerSource Suncoast Apprenticeship Accelerator initiative, including ongoing efforts to expand apprenticeship opportunities and support employer participation in registered apprenticeship programs. The initiative continues to serve as a key strategy for workforce development and talent cultivation within the region.

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

### **Employment and Job Outlook**

Committee members discussed current workforce trends impacting the region, including:

- Increased demand for internships and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Continued emphasis on strengthening employer and industry partnerships.
- Growing importance of career readiness and employability skills among students and job seekers.
- Ongoing efforts to align educational curriculum with evolving workforce and industry needs.

The committee reviewed the May 2026 regional employment data provided by Florida Commerce, highlighting a 4.7% unemployment rate across the region. Discussion focused on the continued trend of individuals working multiple jobs and supplementing their income through gig economy opportunities. Members also noted ongoing employment growth within the healthcare sector, while manufacturing and transportation industries experienced little to no growth during the reporting period.

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

Education Partners provided an overview of the 2026 CLNA survey findings was presented.

#### **Purpose of the CLNA:**

- Evaluate the effectiveness of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.
- Assess alignment between educational programs and workforce demands.
- Gather feedback from students, faculty, and business leaders.
- Support strategic planning and continuous improvement efforts.

#### **Survey Participation:**

- 54 business leaders participated in the 2026 CLNA survey process.

#### **CareerSource Suncoast Updates**

Upcoming workforce events and engagement opportunities were announced:

- Apprenticeship Accelerator, June 17- CareerSource Suncoast or virtual
- Second Chance PTE job Fair - August 18<sup>th</sup> - Light of the World Church
- Paychecks for Patriots - November 12<sup>th</sup> - TBD
- ERising - November 18<sup>th</sup> - CareerSource Suncoast

#### **Public Comments and Closing Remarks**

The committee invited public comments and discussed future meeting planning. Meeting dates for Program Year 2026-2027 will be determined and communicated to members at a later date. Participants were thanked for their continued engagement and commitment to workforce development efforts across the CareerSource Suncoast region.

#### **Conclusion**

The meeting reinforced the value of collaborative partnerships between education, workforce, and industry stakeholders. Continued focus on apprenticeships, career readiness, employer engagement, and workforce-aligned education remains essential to addressing regional workforce needs and supporting economic growth throughout the Suncoast region.