

CareerSource Flagler Volusia EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Q3
Date of meeting: Oct 14, 2024
Report prepared by: James Alvarado
Local workforce development board contact: Thomas LaFlore **Date:** 10/14/2024

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Amy Sullivan	Indian River Networks	Industry	amy.sullivan@indianrivernetworks.com
Juan Avendano	FL Institute of Technology	Education	javendan@fit.edu
Vincent Roshink			
Serena Fisher	Halifax Health	Industry	Serena.Fisher2@halifax.org
Farah Shakoorian			
Renee Kirkland	Flagler Technical College	Education	kirklandr@flaglerschools.com
Jeff Jurinak	Health First	Industry	Jeffrey.Jurinak@hf.org

Frank Margiotta	Eastern Florida State College	Education	margiottaf@easternflorida.edu
Guest – Thomas LaFlore	CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia	Workforce	tlafore@careersourcebfv.com
Guest – Lori Robinson	CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia	Workforce	lrobinson@careersourcebfv.com
Guest – James Alvarado	CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia	Workforce	jalvarado@careersourcebfv.com

B. SUMMARY REPORT

The Education & Industry Consortium convened on October 14th, 2024, after the initial meeting scheduled for September 26th had been postponed due to storm closures across our region from Hurricane Helene. This meeting was held virtually and in-person, but as our region has experienced back-to-back hurricane threats, attendance was sparse as businesses and schools worked to reopen after Hurricane Milton passed through days earlier.

The discussion centered on updating the consortium on the composition of our new Board Members for CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia, outlining the goals of the consortium, reviewing the CareerSource Florida Master Credentials list and its significance to Florida’s workforce system, sharing information on regional grant opportunities, and addressing Chair and Co-Chair nominations for the Education & Industry Consortium.

Thomas LaFlore, VP of Industry Relations at CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia (CSBFV), opened the meeting by reviewing topics from the January and April Consortium meetings. In the January 30th meeting recap, he highlighted the purpose of holding consortium meetings quarterly, discussed the involvement of leadership from both education and industry, and outlined the roles, responsibilities, and focus on key industries. He also shared labor market data for the Brevard, Flagler and Volusia regions.

In the recap of the second meeting, Thomas dove deeper into the use of the Lightcast labor market tool employed by CSBFV. He examined the key industries likely to play a significant role following the consolidation of Brevard, Flagler, and Volusia workforce, and provided an educational overview and addressed the needs expressed by various industries.

The discussion was then shifted to introduce the new board members of CareerSource Brevard Flagler Volusia following the recent consolidation into a single entity. The group was reminded of the consortium's goal of gathering local community-based insights on educational programs and industry needs to share with the local workforce development boards (CSBFV). This approach aims to support the region's programs, services, and partnerships effectively.

Thomas shared insights from a presentation by CareerSource Florida on the Master's Credentials List and its significance to Florida's workforce system, which was originally presented at the Workforce Summit in September. He emphasized its importance to the group, noting that this consortium would play a role in influencing the Master Credential List (MCL), which serves as a strategic tool to align educational and training programs with labor market needs and helps guide workforce development initiatives. By identifying high-value credentials, it assists educational institutions in designing relevant programs and informs funding decisions and fosters stronger partnerships between educational institutions and employers, ensuring the workforce is equipped with necessary skills to meet industry demands.

Thomas explained that the MCL is re-evaluated annually in February, during which a Credential Review Committee meets to assess the list. New credentials can be considered for inclusion through ongoing quarterly application windows. Any credentials identified for removal will remain on the list for two years. The evaluation process involves a review by CareerSource Florida, the Florida Department of Commerce, and the Florida Department of Education, and the updated list is published afterwards.

Discussion took place regarding the regional funding sources available through CSBFV to assist local businesses. Among grants discussed were the Florida Atlantic Workforce Alliance (FAWA), aiming to expand the talent pipeline in Aerospace/Aviation, Advanced Manufacturing, and IT/Cybersecurity, with \$285,000 in available funding. Also discussed was the Dwyer Funding initiative, in partnership with Dwyer Workforce Development, which provides CNA training, scholarships, and career coaching, and is expanding into Flagler and Volusia counties, with \$90,000 allocated for training.

Additional grant opportunities were discussed, including hurricane grants available through the National Dislocated Workforce Grant, offering \$125,000 in funding for job restoration, cleanup efforts, equipment operators, and humanitarian activities. The Hope Florida Funding is a collaboration between CareerSource Florida and the Department of Children's and Families, designed to assist economically disadvantaged Floridians in finding employment and \$50,000 in funding. Lastly, the Sector-Based Training Initiative focuses on the semiconductor industry, creating talent pipelines for critical workers needed to support local microchip businesses, with \$75,000 available for training.

Towards the end of the consortium meeting, Thomas announced that an email would be sent out to solicit nominations for the Chair and Co-Chair positions. He also reiterated that the team is here to provide coordinated staff support.

The meeting concluded with plans set for the next meeting, scheduled to take place in early December.