

Quarterly Report – Meeting #1

Pursuant to the Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act, all local workforce boards in Florida are required to create an Education and Industry Consortium (EIC), whose members were to be appointed by the local workforce board chair. The EIC held its first meeting on March 5, 2024.

The purpose of the EIC is to convene local leaders who can provide information about education and workforce opportunities to businesses and job seekers. The goal is to align educational programming with industry needs at the local level.

Per state policy, discussions should focus on the local labor market needs including:

1. Industry representatives sharing their specific talent development needs or observations on talent in the local area.
2. Education representatives sharing what specific education offerings are available in the local area.

A report of the discussion of the EIC is required to be posted on the CSBD website and must contain 4 elements:

1. A record of the consortium members in attendance.
2. A summary analysis of the local labor market based on industry representative needs and education offerings.
3. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.
4. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations and the need to expand or leverage existing and/or new resources.

This document is the required report.

A. Attendance

As of the first meeting, the EIC consists of six members, as listed below, all of whom were in attendance.

1. Matthew Rocco, South Florida Manufacturers Association (Manufacturing)
2. Maria Formoso, School Board of Broward County (K-12 Education)
3. Kathleen Hagen, FHG Marine Engineering (Marine)
4. Richard Haughton, Haughton Media Management (Aviation)
5. Rozeta Mahboubi, Florida Restaurant Lodging Association, Broward Chapter (Hospitality)
6. Marcy Mills-Matthews, Broward Health (Healthcare)

CareerSource Broward (CSBD) staff Carol Hylton, President/CEO, Ron Moffett, Executive Vice President, Rochelle Daniels, General Counsel and Samantha Vazquez, were also in attendance.

The EIC is chaired by Mr. Matt Rocco who facilitated the meeting and asked CSBD staff to talk about CSBD's governance structure and CSBD's programs and services.

B. Summary analysis of the local labor market based on the industry representative needs and education offerings.

CSBD has created a dashboard of local economic and workforce data, which is updated regularly, and is posted on our website. EIC members were shown how to access the information about occupations in demand on the dashboard. Members were also provided with the CSBD's eligible training provider list (ETPL) so they could see how training options for CSBD customers track with demand occupations. CSBD also informed the EIC regarding workplace-based training.

Following the presentation of the information and tools described above, the committee members expressed their endorsement of the dashboard, which they said can help all employers and job seekers make better business and career decisions. They then compared jobs in demand with the CSBD ETPL and concluded that occupational training offerings were robust and responsive to the local labor market, which continues to be tight.

C. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.

The CSBD Targeted Occupations List (TOL) and information on the targeted industries in Broward County was presented to the committee. It was explained that CSBD could only fund training for occupations on the list.

As the committee considered the TOL, Mr. Haughton directed the committee's attention to the occupational titles "Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers," stating that Flight Engineers are no longer in demand for commercial airlines. The committee also noted that the TOL occupational wage information was outdated or lagging, as in Broward employers have had to increase wages to address inflation and the high cost of living. The committee discussed the 1) tight labor market 2) aging of the workforce and 3) importance of developing and keeping local talent. The members recognized the role of the workforce board as being critical to matching talent with business needs.

Ms. Hylton said CSBD would bring the EIC feedback to CareerSource Florida to see if more updated wage information was available and that we would bring any new information back to the consortium.

D. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations.

The committee reviewed local labor market information and addressed pipeline needs in the following areas:

1. The Marine Industry

The marine industry currently relies on recruiting automotive diesel mechanics and engineers. Marine engines and their components are significantly different from their automotive counterparts, which limits the workers' transferable skills. The marine industry is moving toward using different fuel systems. So, while demand exists for workers trained in diesel fuel engines, there is an emerging need for training in cleaner fuel technologies that are starting to become more mainstream.

2. Aviation

Drone piloting is the fastest-growing field in aviation. Manufacturing drones and their electrical components is a growing field, and there are a number of companies in Pompano and Hollywood that specialize in their manufacture.

Ms. Hylton asked Ms. Hagen and Mr. Houghton, the experts on the EIC for marine and aviation, to provide us with any additional information they may have describing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for those jobs in the occupations discussed. Ms. Hylton stated that CSBD will look into local demand and research the availability of occupational training programs in Broward County in these 2 areas.