



**Broward Workforce Development Board
Education and Industry Consortium**
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2nd QUARTER REPORT
CareerSource Broward Main Conference Room
2890 West Cypress Creek Road, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309

ATTENDEES IN-PERSON / VIA ZOOM: Maria Formoso, Kathleen Hagan, Dr. Steven Tinsley, Michael Smith, Marcy Mills-Matthews and Matthew Rocco, who chaired the meeting.

STAFF: Carol Hylton, Ron Moffett, Rochelle Daniels, Doug Saenz and Michell Williams.

GUESTS: Chris Albert, Eddie Popelca, Mari Grande and Ralph Aiello.

PRESENTATION

1. State of the Industry

Chris Albert, Fortress Marine Anchors, Eddie Popelca, Trividia Health, and Mari Grande, Randstad, participated in a panel discussion on the current State of the manufacturing industry, emerging trends, and recruitment challenges. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to emphasize priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.)*

Chris Albert stated that Fortress Marine Anchors was the top brand sold in South Florida Marine stores. Mari Grande stated that Randstad is one of the largest staffing agencies globally, which supports companies in recruiting qualified talent. Eddie Popelca shared that Trividia Health was among the largest manufacturers of medical devices in the health sector.

Ms. Grande emphasized the challenges in sourcing local talent and advocated for specialized training programs to prepare future employees. Ms. Grande identified that in the manufacturing sector, maintenance and Tool and Die Maker occupations are in high demand but difficult to fill.

Mr. Popelca added that most new hires arrive untrained, posing an onboarding challenge and additional costs to the employer.

Chris Albert mentioned that his company does not typically hire recent college graduates due to a lack of critical thinking and applied skills. Mr. Albert pointed out that small companies using specialized equipment often lack manuals or structured guidance for machine use, posing a challenge when establishing apprenticeship programs. Mr. Albert specifically noted the relevance of "prompt engineering" in the context of AI.

Carol Hylton stated that CareerSource Broward can assist with offsetting curriculum costs and help employers train new staff using our work-based training programs, such as On the Job Training and Incumbent Worker Training. She also highlighted an AI Grant we have that has funds to support the integration of AI in talent development and employee retention.

Marcy Mills-Matthews commented on the importance of hands-on experience and stated Broward Health is applying for funding from CareerSource Broward for AI-related upskilling.

She encouraged the panel representatives to consider utilizing the services offered by CareerSource Broward.

Maria Formoso announced that beginning next school year, students would have new opportunities related to industry training. Dr. Tinsely followed, stating that Broward College has advisory committees to assist with program and curriculum development and internship coordinators to assist with student placement.

The panelists were asked to list the top emerging workforce trends they see locally over the near term. Their collective responses are listed below:

- Eddie Popelca stated that for local manufacturers of medical devices in the health sector, he sees the convergence of AI and learning integration.
- Mari Grande indicated she sees an increase in how AI is being integrated into jobs.
- Chris Albert shared that the retirement of baby boomers requires a workforce that can adapt quickly to the shifts brought about by AI and automation, as customers demand higher quality and lower prices for manufactured products produced in the U.S.

Matt Rocco and the Education and Industry Consortium members thanked the panelists for their time and insights into the local manufacturing sector. Carol Hylton also expressed her appreciation and asked Doug Saenz, Business Services Manager, to follow up with the panelists to explore their interest in accessing CareerSource Broward's employer services and becoming a host worksite for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Ms. Hylton stated that our SYEP is a great way to expose youth and attract them to the occupations and career ladders in the industry.

2. Year In Review Highlights

The Consortium members viewed the video highlighting the work and accomplishments of CareerSource Broward this past year. It was a jam-packed year full of new strategic partnerships, deepening relationships, innovative signature events, and community involvement. All while sustaining an "A" letter grade under the REACH Act, meeting and exceeding our Federal Performance Measures, a clean audit, and earning recognition as a Top Workplace!

Matt Rocco congratulated Ms. Hylton and the team on their great success. Carol Hylton expressed her appreciation and thanked the members for supporting the Board's vision and mission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The 2/25 Quarterly Report

Considered approving the 1st Quarterly Report of 2025 from the 2/25 Consortium meeting. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to provide a quarterly report to the Broward Workforce Development Board.)*

Matt Rocco introduced the item and reviewed the report.

On a motion made by Maria Formoso and seconded by Steven Tinsley, the EIC members unanimously approved the 1st Quarter Report.

2. Expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs

On 4/23, an Executive Order (EO) was issued that seeks to have federal workforce programs expand registered apprenticeship programs and encourage the recognition of alternative credentials. The Consortium was asked to discuss and identify strategies and actions that CSBD could take to encourage employers to participate in the Apprenticeship Programs. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to review information on the status of existing talent pipelines and the need to expand or leverage existing and/or new resources.)*

Matt Rocco introduced the item and asked Ron Moffett to review it.

Mr. Moffett highlighted the intent of the Executive Order that seeks to align workforce goals with reindustrializing the U.S. economy. Michael Smith stated he thought a strategy that should be looked into is engaging those employers and associations that already have registered apprenticeships to encourage them to start pre-apprenticeship programs. Ms. Hylton agreed with the strategy and added that she recently saw a demonstration of an AI program called PACE AI that helps youth better comprehend job descriptions and career ladders by putting terms in context at their reading level. She was impressed by how the software has the potential to excite youth to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities.

On a motion made by Maria Formoso and seconded by Michael Smith, the EIC members unanimously approved staff to reach out to employers and associations that already have registered apprenticeships to discuss the benefits of starting a pre-apprenticeship program.

3. Targeted Occupations List (TOL) for Program Year (PY) 25/26

In compliance with federal law, the TOL governs the provision of the WIOA funded training programs offered to individuals needing training assistance within the workforce system. Annually, the State evaluates each local area's TOL and sends a preliminary list of the in-demand occupations to the workforce boards. In preparation for this year's Targeted Occupations List review, the Consortium was asked for their input on the local labor market and emerging in-demand occupations that should be researched for possible inclusion on our list. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to emphasize priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.)*

Rochelle Daniels explained that if a job is not included on the Targeted Occupations List (TOL), CSBD is not permitted to provide funding for occupational training. Ron Moffett informed the Consortium that a new TOL would be released soon. Mr. Moffett requested that Consortium members review the list and submit suggestions for additions or removals and that we invite members to the publicly noticed meeting so they may provide their feedback.

The Chair and members agreed that no motion or vote was needed.

REPORTS

1. Artificial Intelligence Incumbent Worker Training Grant

In March, CSBD was awarded \$300,000 from FloridaCommerce to assist eligible incumbent workers, whose jobs are at risk due to automation and AI advancements, with upskilling and reskilling to retain employment. We currently have over \$179,000 in training grants in the pipeline, and additional interested employers are preparing applications.

Matt Rocco suggested sharing information regarding the Artificial Intelligence Incumbent Worker Training Grant with the Consortium to increase their awareness and potential participation. Carol Hylton indicated that staff would do so.

2. Worlds of Work (WOW) Youth Career Exploration Event

CSBD, in partnership with the School Board of Broward County, hosted their 2nd Annual WOW Youth Career Exploration event on 3/10 at the Amerant Bank Arena for 9th and 10th-grade students. This experience provided a broad spectrum of career pathways through hands-on and virtual reality immersive exhibits. The exhibits were provided by our education and employer community and included interactive FBI crime scene activities, culinary activities, airplane simulators, 3D digital models and designs, respiratory mannequins, patient simulators, robots, web development, cyber security projects, drones, a 100+ ft. construction crane, a fire engine, an ambulance, and various police vehicles. Feedback from students and exhibitors has been very positive.

In the interest of time, Ron Moffett stated the WOW video link would be sent to the Consortium members so they could view it at a later time and share it with those in their networks.

3. CSBD 2025 BWDB Legislative Agenda

At our April Board meeting, the 2025 BWDB Legislative Agenda was approved, allowing the President/CEO to support follow-up communications from other public interest groups, such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors and supporting community partners' workforce-related legislative agendas. Consortium members input was incorporated into the legislative agenda.

Carol Hylton reviewed the BWDB legislative agenda and thanked the Consortium members for their input.

4. Apprenticeship Fair

CSBD hosted an Apprenticeship Fair on 5/15 at the South One-Stop Center, drawing over 140 job seekers to explore career pathways in high-demand industries including construction, manufacturing, IT, and healthcare. Participating employers and registered apprenticeship sponsors, such as Memorial Hospital, Advanced Roofing, Miller Electric, McFatter Technical College, and the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development, provided valuable information about current job openings and apprenticeship opportunities.

CSBD's Apprenticeship Navigator was on-site to help job seekers understand the benefits and accessibility of registered apprenticeship programs. It is too soon to determine hiring information from the event. We will continue to monitor and follow up on the hiring activity. Feedback from the employers and job seekers was very positive.

Matt Rocco introduced the item, and Ron Moffett summarized the event and its success.

5. Upcoming Employer Industry Forums

These events provide an opportunity to convene the business community, education partners, and economic development stakeholders to address workforce challenges in Broward County's targeted industries collaboratively. Sessions focus on identifying talent needs, creating industry-aligned solutions, including addressing the impacts of artificial intelligence on the workforce. Registration information will be shared with the members as we get closer to each event, and an optional calendar invite will be sent to their Outlook calendars.

Doug Saenz indicated he would email Matt Rocco the details for the manufacturing forum so he could share it with the association's members and encourage them to attend.

6. Laurie Moran Partnership Award

CSBD was honored with the prestigious Laurie Moran Partnership Award which recognizes outstanding collaboration at the National Association of Workforce Boards' annual conference attended by workforce boards from across the country. CSBD was selected for our strategic partnerships with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. Executive Vice President of Operations, Mark Klineciewicz, accepted the award. Photos from the award ceremony are linked in our social media post below.

Matt Rocco congratulated Carol and the CSBD team.

7. CSBD Top Workplace Recognition

We are thrilled to announce that CSBD has been recognized as a 2025 Top Workplace by the South Florida Sun Sentinel! This prestigious award is based entirely on employee feedback and reflects our organization's commitment to fostering a positive, supportive, and mission-driven work environment. It highlights our team's passion for serving the Broward County community and helping businesses and job seekers thrive.

To celebrate this achievement and accept our award, Board Chair Jim Ryan and members, Dr. Lisa Knowles and Marjorie Walters, along with members from our team, attended the 2025 Sun Sentinel Top Workplaces Awards Ceremony at the Coral Springs Marriott Hotel & Convention Center. We are proud of this achievement and grateful to every staff member whose dedication made this recognition possible.

Matt Rocco asked the consortium members to join him in congratulating Carol and the CSBD team on receiving this well-deserved award.

8. Broward County Unemployment and Economic Dashboard

The unemployment rate in Broward County was 3.2 percent in April 2025. This rate was 0.4 percentage points higher than the region's year-ago rate. In April 2025, Broward County's

unemployment rate was 0.3 lower than the State's rate. Out of a labor force of 1,085,636, up 3,550 (+0.3%) over the year, there were 35,168 unemployed Broward County residents. The dashboard is a value-added resource, allowing businesses the ability to make data-informed decisions.

After discussing the Dashboard, Carol Hylton asked Doug Saenz to pull up the CSBD website to showcase our employer OJT calculator. Doug did so and demonstrated how the Value Calculator can be used to show the dollar value of wage reimbursements an employer can realize during the employee's training period. The members expressed how this shows employers can benefit their bottom line by using our services.

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM CHAIR

Matt Rocco stated that the Healthcare sector would be the industry highlighted at the next EIC meeting.

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM

None.

MATTERS FROM THE CAREERSOURCE BROWARD PRESIDENT

None.

MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT – 2:10 p.m.

THE NEXT EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 26, 2025
