



**Broward Workforce Development Board
Education and Industry Consortium**
Tuesday, November 20, 2025
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

4th QUARTER REPORT
CareerSource Broward Main Conference Room
2890 West Cypress Creek Road, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309

ATTENDEES: Maria Formoso, Richard Haughton, Michael Smith, and Matthew Rocco, who chaired the meeting.

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

GUESTS: None

PRESENTATION

1. State of the Industry

Maria (Loli) Formoso, Director of Career, Technical, Adult, and Community Education (CTACE), School Board of Broward County, presented on the state of the education industry, emerging trends, and challenges. *(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.)*

Ms. Formoso's report addressed 1) the talent and skills gaps in local industries 2) emerging trends in education and 3) engaging local youth through career exploration and internship opportunities. From an education industry perspective, Ms. Formoso stated that one challenge they face is recruiting and hiring individuals as educators who have worked in the in-demand industries.

Ms. Formoso shared that some of the emerging trends in education include expanding and integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their classrooms and increasing the number of their IT pathways. She stated that they are providing teachers with AI professional development training, and now over 300 students have access to Microsoft Co-Pilot, which was rolled out this year. They also have a major initiative with the slogan "Broward Schools Powered by AI" with Superintendent and Broward Workforce Development Board member Dr. Howard Hepburn leading the way.

Ms. Formoso highlighted that within Broward high schools, there are over 50 different career and technical education (CTE) programs, and each school offers between 12 and 17 CTE pathways, which is unique to Broward compared to other school districts. This year, the new CTE advisor positions were launched, their traditional high schools have a CTE advisor to help prepare students for post-secondary and to create a pipeline directly into an industry, technical school, or Broward College.

Ms. Formoso provided a list of their technical school programs at Atlantic, McFatter and Sheridan Technical Colleges. She discussed the workforce educational programs, supported

by CSBD, that assist adults with disabilities, GED assistance, and Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and In-School Youth (ISY) grants.

Ms. Formoso reviewed several of the collaborations that Broward schools have with CSBD, including data sharing, grant opportunities, and student work experience internships.

Ms. Hylton informed Ms. Formoso that she would like to partner with them and one or two industries to initiate a pilot program, offering students on-the-job training or work experience before they graduate from the technical schools. This would allow them to gain experience and have an opportunity to secure employment upon graduation.

Mr. Rocco expressed his support for the idea. He shared that last Friday, at Atlantic Technical College, he attended a discussion forum with manufacturers about reviewing the current apprenticeship modules and exploring ways to fast-track some of the curriculum and training for apprenticeships.

Mr. Haughton asked Ms. Formoso for an update on aviation industry initiatives in middle and high schools. Ms. Formoso provided a copy of the 25/26 CTE Program locations, which listed the programs by industry and by school. She highlighted the aviation mechanics pilot program at Broward College and stated that the information she provided is also available on their website.

To illustrate ways CTACE actively promotes interest in local in-demand occupations, she shared that earlier today, CTACE had two events that she attended: A Day in the Life of a Nurse, with 15 hospitals on site and over 15 schools in attendance, and A Day in the Life of Hospitality, hosted at the Marriott hotel, with over 300 students in attendance.

Mr. Moffett inquired what the 'Day in the Life' event looked like for students who attend. Ms. Formoso explained they have keynote speakers, a panel discussion and a tour to gain real-world experience and interaction with experts in that industry.

Mr. Rocco thanked Ms. Formoso for her report.

2. Jobs EQ Labor Market Software

Douglas Saenz, Business Services Manager, demonstrated the Jobs EQ software, which provides staff with comprehensive labor market data, skill demand insights, and employment projections. As part of our value proposition to employers and community leaders, we utilize Jobs EQ to provide them with just-in-time information that supports data-driven decision-making. *(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.)*

Mr. Saenz presented a demonstration of Jobs EQ. He navigated Jobs EQ using the manufacturing industry to illustrate the data that can be extrapolated and displayed, including wages, employment demands and projections, occupation groups and sub-sectors, and industry growth.

Mr. Rocco stated that he was impressed by the information that could be gleaned from the software and shared that, over the last 10 years, as a state, Florida had grown faster than any other state in the nation in the manufacturing industry.

Ms. Hylton added that as part of our services to employers, we can provide data for a specific industry, so leaders can make informed workforce decisions. Mr. Rocco asked Mr. Saenz to return to the EIC in a future meeting and expand on how employers are using the Jobs EQ's data.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The 8/26 Quarterly Report

Considered approving the 3rd Quarterly Report of 2025 from the 8/26 Consortium meeting. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to provide a quarterly report to the Broward Workforce Development Board.)*

On a motion made by Maria Formoso and seconded by Michael Smith, the EIC members unanimously approved the 3rd Quarter Report.

2. Education and Industry Consortium (EIC) Meeting Calendar 2026

Considered the approval of the EIC Committee meeting schedule. As required by the REACH Act, 4 meetings were scheduled for the upcoming year. Meetings are in person. On occasion, if necessary, a consortium member could attend via Zoom.

On a motion made by Maria Formoso and seconded by Richard Haughton, the EIC members unanimously approved the 2026 EIC meeting calendar.

3. 2026 BWDB Legislative Agenda

Each year, our governing boards develop a legislative agenda. As the committee charged with aligning industry needs with educational offerings, CSBD solicited the committee's input with respect to state and federal legislation that would benefit our local employers and education providers. Their current federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act concerns continue and were attached for reference. *(This aligns with the Consortium's requirement to emphasize priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.)*

Mr. Moffett explained that the Board's legislative agenda was being developed. As part of this process, we ask our partners to share items related to workforce development that are on their agendas.

Mr. Rocco stated that he had reached out to his partner associations, and they are working on their legislative agenda. He stated that they are monitoring Senate Bill 528 which 1) establishes a Chief Manufacturing Officer 2) directs the creation of a manufacturing data report 3) funds a "Made in Florida" campaign and 4) includes a workforce grant. Mr. Rocco asked Ms. Daniels to discuss the sample letter. Ms. Daniels reviewed the Congressional Delegation letter drafted by the Conference of Mayors. She explained that WIOA was up for reauthorization, noting that there were some concerns with the particulars of the bill and suggestions made in committee hearings to merge various workforce funding streams. Ms. Daniels added, that historically, when funding streams are combined, the available funds decrease. Therefore, we should continue to inform Washington about what these programs deliver at the local level and how we allocate funds to provide meaningful and impactful workforce services to the people who need them.

Ms. Daniels explained to the members that the customizable letter, included in their agenda packets, was provided to inform congressional representatives of their support for maintaining a local workforce system.

On a motion made by Michael Smith and seconded by Richard Haughton, the EIC members unanimously approved 1) sharing legislative items related to workforce development and 2) the letter to show support for the local workforce system.

REPORTS

1. Florida Network Navigator Funds

CSBD received \$208,571 in Florida Network Navigator funds from Florida Commerce. The grant period is through 6/30. These funds provide support for dedicated navigator staff for the 1) Apprenticeship 2) Hope Florida and 3) Military Family programs. These navigators would engage with educational institutions, employers, and community organizations to strengthen awareness and utilization of available workforce services. The Military Family program provides employment services and case management to spouses and dependents of active-duty military personnel.

Ms. Hylton discussed the additional Florida Network Navigator funds received from Florida Commerce.

2. Paychecks for Patriots Hiring Event

On 11/7, CSBD proudly hosted the 13th annual Paychecks for Patriots Job Fair, welcoming more than 2,400 job seekers, including over 350 veterans, and featuring 140+ employers actively recruiting talent. Youth providers referred work-ready participants, with Success Coaches accompanying them to provide added support. Employers in attendance included Broward Health, Memorial Healthcare, Seminole Hard Rock, Broward County Public Schools, Coca-Cola, Riverside Hotel, and numerous law enforcement agencies, such as Fort Lauderdale Police, the FBI, Broward Sheriff's Office, and Pembroke Pines Police. In addition to employer recruitment, job seekers benefited from free haircuts and professional headshots. Feedback from both employers and job seekers was overwhelmingly positive.

Ms. Hylton discussed the Paycheck for Patriots (P4P) event, and the video highlights were shown to the EIC members. Ms. Hylton mentioned that, due to the high level of participation involving about 2,400 job seekers, we may host two events next year.

Mr. Smith shared that he attended P4P. The event was well-attended, and he was able to find more qualified applicants than at any other event. Overall, it was a phenomenal career fair. Ms. Hylton thanked him for participating and sharing his positive experience.

3. CareerSource Broward To Serve As Quick Response Training Grants Fiscal Agent

CSBD will 1) serve as the local fiscal agent for the Quick Response Training (QRT) program and 2) add QRT to the employer services offered by CSBD. CareerSource Florida asked local boards to serve as the fiscal agent for the QRT grants. The program provides training grants to new and expanding businesses for new hires. As a fiscal agent, we assist employers with the application process and approve the grant distributions once training is completed, and CSBD would receive a payment of 5% of each grant awarded.

Ms. Hylton shared that the QRT grant covers 100% of the cost for new and expanding businesses for new hires.

4. The AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Employers Update

CareerSource Broward, in partnership with Gilead Sanders LLC, continues progress on the region's first AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses. The first and second employer roundtables were held on 10/30 and 11/14. These sessions engaged local businesses in discussions on AI awareness and opportunities for adoption. Employers reported that the sessions were highly valuable, offering practical insights and sparking ideas on how AI can enhance their daily operations and drive long-term growth. The next and last roundtable is scheduled for 12/4. To broaden participation, a survey was distributed to employers and shared through key partners, including industry associations, local Chambers of Commerce, the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance, and the Broward Office of Economic and Small Business Development. Insights gathered from both efforts will guide development of the Playbook's practical tools and recommendations.

Mr. Klincewicz explained what the AI Playbook was and provided an update on its progress. He encouraged members interested in attending the next forum to register on the CSBD website. Ms. Hylton added that we also have an AI IWT grant, which offsets the cost of upskilling employees.

5. National Workforce Development Month

September was National Workforce Development Month. Our Chair Jim Ryan, President/CEO Carol Hylton, and staff attended the Annual State Workforce Summit, where two of our own were honored. County Administrator Monica Cepero received the Workforce Partner of the Year Award, and Adult Programs Administrator Kasia Kossak received the Florida Lighthouse Award in recognition of her service as a beacon for servant leadership and innovation. On 9/16, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners acknowledged CSBD and Workforce Development Month with a proclamation.

Pictures were shared with the members from the Workforce Professional Development Summit and the Proclamation Announcement.

6. Report on Aviation Industry Employer Forum

CSBD held an Aviation Industry Employer Forum on 11/4. The forum was well attended, representing employers, education, and economic development partners. The objective of the forum was to discuss skill gaps, training needs, best workforce practices, and to identify strategies to strengthen the local aviation talent pipeline. The strategies developed to address these challenges include 1) placing youth in summer internships 2) exploring the development of local aviation registered apprenticeship programs and 3) assisting employers with AI implementation through CSBD's AI IWT grant and AI Playbook for Small and Medium-Sized Employers.

7. Manufacturing Industry Career Fair

In alignment with hosting smaller, more targeted hiring events, a Manufacturing Industry Job Fair was held on 10/14 at our South One-Stop Center.

Both employers and job seekers expressed strong satisfaction with the format and connections made, and staff are currently following up with employers to capture hiring outcomes.

8. Employer Services Infograph October 2024 – September 2025

CSBD's Employer Services Infograph was created to convey information about the delivery of our services to employers quickly and clearly through visual elements. The infograph is a great tool for enhancing our storytelling and increasing the shareability of content across various platforms. CSBD hosted 63 recruitment events and job fairs during the period covered by the infograph. Additionally, through the outreach team, CSBD assisted Broward employers with over \$4.4 million in work-based training investments, including OJT grants, paid internships, and incumbent worker training.

9. Broward County Unemployment and Economic Dashboard

The unemployment report was unavailable. We confirmed with the state that, due to the lapse in appropriations, it may take some time for the Bureau of Labor Statistics to finalize revised release dates.

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM CHAIR: None

MATTERS FROM THE CONSORTIUM: None

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR: None

MATTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO: None

ADJOURNMENT – 1:54 p.m.

<p>THE NEXT EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM MEETING IS FEBRUARY 17, 2026</p>
