

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of July 28, 2022, CSNEFL Full Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes made by Elaine Johnson; seconded by Darryl Register; motion passed unanimously, and minutes approved.

Apprenticeship Expansion Update:

The presenters gave an overview of their apprenticeship programs and discussed what has been happening in the work-based learning programs in our region. The Apprenticeship Programs benefit the disadvantaged community because participants do not pay tuition. This is paid by the contractor or employer. Another benefit for participants is that they are employed during the apprenticeship program receiving an hourly wage, medical benefits, and seniority. Employers have the ability to create a curriculum that is designed to fill the needs of the employer.

- CareerSource Northeast Florida (Doreen Lund, Apprenticeship Navigator): Nationally, there are over 6,000 active apprentices and over 100,000 graduates. Participation has increased over the years. Doreen presented the Florida website and how to navigate www.apprenticeshipflorida.gov for employers and career seekers. She shared the statistical data within northeast Florida. Overall, we have 275 programs which is a 10% increase from the prior year. Our region has expanded into new areas like IT, healthcare, security, hospitality, and landscaping. Doreen also discussed their marketing efforts on social media.
- Flagler Health+ (Angela Guerrero, Coordinator of Computer-Based Education): They have started a surgical tech apprenticeship program which is the first in the state. The training includes scrubbing in for surgeries. There is a lot of excitement and interest.
- Miller Electric Company (Tim Hinson, Director of Workforce Development): Miller Electric started their apprenticeship program in 1945. The apprenticeship program is a combination of on-the-job training and academic training. At time of graduation, participants have completed 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 1,000 hours in the classroom. Tim stated their acceptance rate is low and they are looking at this internally. A lot of recruitment is being done but still need more to even be able to replace people that are retiring. They are also working hard to recruit and increase the number of females and minorities in this field.

REACH Act

- EY Roundtable: We continue to participate in the study. We are in phase 2 of consolidation discussions. An EY call is scheduled today with Larry Harvey, Putnam County Commissioner and other elected officials.
- Letter Grades: Our region scored a 94.41% which was the highest for the entire state. The system as a whole for the entire state averaged a B letter grade. The team is doing a great job. Now that we know the metrics, we can track and monitor the data. Wayne McClain recognized Bruce, Board members and the entire team at CareerSource Northeast Florida for establishing such an amazing culture and a job well done.

Operations Update:

- The Labor Market Data for September 2022 was reviewed. The unemployment rate continues to drop. This is driven by more people going to work and not due to non-participating labor force. Overall, the job growth and net new jobs increased by 5% since last year. We continue to see light traffic in the career centers. The low unemployment rate could be affecting this. The number of attendees at recruitment events dropped off a bit but we continue our recruiting efforts.
- We were able to send 2 disaster relief teams to the areas affected by Hurricane Ian to help augment their staff.

Strategic Visioning Update:

- The 2-year modification to the 4-year plan has been approved.
- Rebecca reviewed the upcoming job fair events and partnerships including partnering up with St. Johns River State College for the Manufacturing Job Fair. Paychecks for Patriots event will include a variety of workshops and webinars. Other events to be held next month include Certificates of Value event at FSCJ and Apprenticeship Week.

Public Comment:

Robert Kelly, CEO of Read USA gave an overview of their programs. Read USA is an educational nonprofit organization focused on closing the literacy gap through their programs. The tutoring program currently recruits, trains and pays about 170 high schoolers to teach elementary children 1 on 1 who have reading difficulties. They provide workforce development skills and transportation for the high schoolers. They have partnerships with VyStar, UNF and FSCJ.

The meeting was adjourned by the Board Chair, Wayne McClain at 11:00 a.m.