

# CareerSource NEFL QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Quarter 4

Date of meeting: April 28, 2026

Report prepared by: CareerSource NEFL

Local workforce development board contact: Melissa Terbrueggan

Date: May 12, 2026

## B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Cyndi Adams	Claxton Bank	Finance	Cadams@tcbga.bank
Scott Curry	UNF	Education	Scott.Curry@unf.edu
Zoe Astra	Guidewell	Life Sciences	Zoe.Astra@guidewell.com
John Wall	Florida State College at Jacksonville	Education	John.Wall@fscj.edu
Virginia Mascia	Vaco	Technology Services	Virginie.Mascia@vaco.com
Edward Jordan	SJR State College	Education	EdwardJordan@sjrstate.edu
Emily Roth	Ascension St. Vincent's	Life Sciences	Emily.Roth2@ascension.org
Corey Graf	FIS	Technology/Finance	Corey.Graf@fisglobal.com
Moyla Halimy	Vystar	Corporate Operations	Halimym@vystarcu.org
Caitlin Smith Sockbeson, Ph.d.	Jacksonville University	Education	Csockbe@ju.edu

## B. SUMMARY REPORT

### 1. Summary analysis of the local labor market based on the industry representative needs and education offerings. (Provide summary)

- During the 2019-2025 strategic planning period, 116 announcements have been made, generating 17,222 jobs and \$6.4+ billion in capital investment.
- Unemployment in northeast Florida slightly dropped to 5.1% in February from 5.2% in January. Job order tracking shows a slight uptick from earlier this quarter but continues to remain mostly flat. Attendees expressed that the pause on hiring and utilizing interns is partially attributed to reorganizations and caution in an uncertain economy with evolving federal regulations. However, participants expect conditions to improve and hiring activity to normalize going into next year.
- The current top occupations being posted are primarily in front-line support and supervisory roles, and health-care related positions but more varied than in past quarters: Retail Salesperson; Registered Nurses; First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers; First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers; Fast Food and Counter Workers; Medical and Health Services Managers; Sales Representatives of Services, ex Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services & Travel; Maintenance and Repair Workers, General; Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers; Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents.

### 2. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area. (Provide summary)

- Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation and Logistics continue to be strong sectors of the northeast Florida economy driving growth and innovation. From 2019-2025, the current strategic plan period, 6,209 jobs in advanced manufacturing and 4,171 jobs in transportation and logistics were brought to this region by new and expanding businesses.
- Most recently announced this quarter, is the German company, Daimler Coaches of North America, who has established its new U.S. Headquarters in Jacksonville. The grand opening of the 43,000 square foot facility took place on February 10, 2026. The new center includes pre-delivery inspection, a large repair, maintenance and service center, an administrative building, and a dedicated training and delivery center for technicians and operators. This will bring 50 new jobs and \$100 million in capital investment. After the opening, the number of employees is expected to increase by approximately 45%.
- To expand the talent pipeline in northeast Florida in critical areas, the University of Florida (UF) is developing a campus in downtown Jacksonville and met with the Talent Advancement Network group this quarter to share targeted growth areas. The campus will launch in August

2026 at 801 Bay Street, a 30,000-square-foot facility with a physical expansion planned to include a 175,000 square-foot flagship building with a target opening of May 2029. Seven initial graduate programs will be offered and designed for working professionals: a Professional MBA, Master's in Engineering, Master of Science in Management, Master's in Architecture, Master's in Computer Science, Master of Studies in Law, and a Master of Science in AI in Biomedical and Health Sciences. The Professional MBA cohort already has 39 students enrolled, including commuters from Georgia and Orlando.

- A secondary pillar of the UF campus is the Applied Research for National Security Lab; a research institute focused on national security and applied research. The State of Florida has allocated 45 million to this initiative. Research will focus on technical sectors such as semiconductors, precision manufacturing, and advanced manufacturing.

### 3. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations. (Provide summary)

- State colleges are expanding pathways to produce talent and upskill in key areas. Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) is growing its offerings in advanced manufacturing by adding more certificate options and a BAS degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering with an expected launch of spring 2027. Programs are supported by a new semiconductor learning factory. St. Johns River State College (SJR State) graduated its first sonography class and continues to grow non-credit programs including AI, PMI Certification, and Aviation to more rapidly respond to workforce demands.
- The University of North Florida is seeking to expand internship opportunities for students enrolled in the Coggin College of Business.
- Planning is underway to schedule presentations at area businesses who are hosting summer interns from area colleges and universities. These presentations focus on the benefits of living and working in northeast Florida utilizing the Earn Up and Find Your Jax Resources. In addition, all interns are invited to a networking event at a Jumbo Shrimp ballgame.
- Dr. Lebesch, Senior Vice President for Talent and Marketing, JAXUSA Partnership, shared a summary of the Career Pathways campaign efforts in partnership with school districts, colleges, and community organizations to grow and attract regional talent: 55 events this quarter reached 3,098 people. The Earn Up platform experienced 42,624 website visits this quarter. Social media reach for Earn Up exceeded 900,000 views this quarter and for talent attraction outside of our region, Find Your Jax exceeded 1 million views.
- Employer engagement reached 658 people this quarter with 35 activities. Significant engagement this quarter focused on gathering information to support two rural talent studies and the region's targeted industries of Advanced Manufacturing, Transportation & Logistics, Health and Life Sciences, Technology

Services, Financial Services, Corporate Operations, and their related support sectors. Targeted research and stakeholder convenings designed to engage employers, educators, training providers, and community partners in addressing critical workforce challenges in the rural counties of Baker and Nassau County sought to address the current workforce ecosystem, identify priority needs, define skills and training gaps, strengthen communication among partners, and develop actionable next steps.

- Career and Technical Education Directors and staff attended a presentation and tour of the Boeing facility this quarter to learn more about the requirements of the skilled positions there.
- CareerSource NEFL continues to support initiatives to connect people to employment opportunities. Highlights of National Apprentice Week include the Focused Apprenticeship Accelerator event on April 10, 2026, hosted at Ring Power, which brought employers together to learn more about the apprenticeship model, and an apprenticeship recruitment event for job seekers on April 29, 2026. Also on April 29<sup>th</sup>, FSCJ with CareerSource, hosted a Second Chance Job Fair to connect returning citizens from incarceration, with employment opportunities. Additional “Recruitment Wednesday” events continue this quarter. The May 13<sup>th</sup> event focused on opportunities in the healthcare sector. The Gateway Center is also hosting events on May 5, 7 and 21.