

Meeting Minutes

Education & Industry Consortium

Meeting Date: June 18, 2025

PURPOSE

Per the requirements outlined in the Florida statutes, the CareerSource Escarosa Education & Industry Consortium was established to obtain independent information on workforce needs from businesses and educational institutions in our two-county region.

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Present: Dr. Marcus McBride, Carolyn Fries, Nicole Gislason, Scott Berube, and Jim Rhodes

Absent: Rusty Branch, Jordan Conti, Kristie Kelley, Kelvin Enfinger, Dr. Karen Barber, Keith Leonard, and Dr. Ed Meadows

Welcome

Dr. Marcus McBride and Nicole Gislason welcomed all to the Education & Industry Consortium meeting.

Review & Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

All were informed that minutes of past meetings are now on CareerSource Escarosa's website, and future minutes will be posted as well along with all notes and handouts presented at each meeting.

Review & Discussion: Occupational Data for Finance & Insurance, Construction, Healthcare & Social Assistance Sectors

Data on the top ten (10) occupations in healthcare and social assistance was presented. Discussion centered around occupations not included (LPNs and Phlebotomy) but needed; openings needing to be filled; and filling positions with the younger generation.

Data on the top ten (10) occupations in construction was presented. Discussion centered around skills relating to construction demands; shipbuilding needs and location of manufacturing; and Marine Technology being a targeted area. It was noted that grants are expected that will support the ports.

Data on the top ten (10) occupations in finance and insurance was presented. The next industry workshop is scheduled for August 2025. It was noted that past industry workshops have been held on a half day timeframe, and the logistics of the workshops were noted.

There was discussion regarding academics and the relationship to occupations; Xello which is a k-12 career exploration platform; and the mention of Navy Federal being the largest employer in our area.

Review 2026-26 Master Credential Non-Degree Programs of Study

The Master Credential List was presented to review. The list is reviewed once a quarter by the state. New programs are added, as requested. All were asked to review the list for any additions, and submit comments by COB on next Wednesday, June 25, 2025. Nicole Gislason expressed having the

Fundamental of Engineering course of study/credential added to the list, as this is a requirement for an Engineering degree. Carolyn noted that she would get together with Ms. Gislason to work on getting this program of study added to the list.

Consortium Updates:

Healthcare & Social Services (Scott Berube)

Update on Healthcare and Social Services included seeing growth and expecting it to evolve over the next 12 months, and some negative pressure in getting RNs into jobs due to CMA's mandate requirement. Otherwise, business is good.

Accommodation & Food Services – Rusty Branch

Not available.

Finance & Insurance

Not available.

Manufacturing

Not available.

Construction

Not available.

IT & Cybersecurity (Jim Rhodes)

Update on IT & Cybersecurity included the completion of Cyber camps; the request to Washington, DC for support of grant renewal that targets the military; and the trending of AI and AI training in weeks ahead.

A request was made for speakers, sponsors, and attendees for ITEN Wired.

Santa Rosa County School District – Dr. Karen Barber

Not available

Escambia County School District – Mr. Keith Leonard

Not available.

Pensacola State College – Dr. Ed Meadows

Not available

University of West Florida – Ms. Nicole Gislason

Updated included the transition of the former UWF President (Dr. Saunders) to the newly appointed President (Commissioner Diaz) will occur on July 13, 2025.

PSC is experiencing growth and is expected to see a demographics shift.

Ms. Gislason presented data which was inspired by Okaloosa County and Haas Center graphing the Labor Force Participation Rate by age, gender, & county for 2023. There was discussion regarding female recruitment during age bearing years and attracting the older population. Discussion centered around strategies to recruit specific groups for employment.

Ms. Gislason made an inquiry regarding designed prosthetics and the script for specific designs, as UWF downtown lab students are engaged with 3-D printing. There was some discussion regarding the inquiry. Mr. Berube noted he would inquire with his source and forward the information to Ms. Gislason.

The meeting was adjourned.