



CareerSource Okaloosa Walton
Business Competitiveness Council
December 9, 2021 * 9:00 a.m.
Microsoft TEAMS

Michelle Crocker	Al Smith	Roger Phipps
Caralee Gibson	April Branscome	Brooke Adams
Jon Williams	Michael Erny	
CSOW Staff: Kelly Jordan	Will Miles	Michele Burns
Mikiko Tucker	Brad Balfanz	

Michelle Crocker called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

The council reviewed the minutes from the meeting on July 29, 2021. Michelle requested a motion to approve the minutes. Al Smith made the motion and seconded by April Branscome; all in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Michelle informed the council the following dates were set for the BCC meetings in 2022.

- March 10, 2022
- May 12, 2022
- July 14, 2022
- November 10, 2022

Will updated the BCC on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and the council was given the most updated copy of our ETPL. Will presented and gave an overview of the process of eligibility and the requirements a provider must have to be eligible to receive funding from CareerSource Okaloosa Walton. All programs and providers that are approved by BCC go before the Board of Directors meetings.

Brad provided an update on our new training grant we received from CareerSource Florida and Department of Economic Opportunity. The grant is known as the Northwest Florida Military Outreach Collaboration which is part of the Get There Faster Grant Initiative.

The Northwest Florida Military Outreach Collaboration (NWFMOC), which includes CareerSource Escarosa, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton, CareerSource Chipola and CareerSource Gulf Coast has taken a regional approach to supportive services, in-demand training, and employment opportunities to veterans, transitioning military and eligible military spouses throughout the twelve counties that comprise Northwest Florida. The four Workforce boards in Northwest Florida serve collaboratively in proud support of the men and women who serve in the following eight installations: NAS Pensacola, Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, 7th Special Forces, NAVSEA, NSA Panama City and Tyndall AFB.

The NWFMOC will work closely with the following proven educational institutions located within the twelve counties of Northwest Florida to provide 200+ regional and statewide in-demand training programs, which result in industry recognized credentials upon program completion.

Through the implementation of this grant, NWFMOC will place an even greater focus on serving military veterans, transitioning military and military spouses through the career center network by assigning a Military Career Assistance Navigator.

The vision for these Military Career Assistance Navigators includes a high profile, welcoming desk in the front of the career center. Similar to a “VIP Entrance” or “Frequent Flyer Line” experience, military veterans, transitioning military and military spouses will more easily visualize their priority of service by entering a specific line and being greeted by a Military Career Assistance Navigator, who will be well versed on all military related resources as well as all programs within the center.

The next meeting will be March 10, 2022.