

CAREERSOURCE OKALOOSA WALTON EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025

Date of meeting: September 18, 2025

Report prepared by: Michele Burns

Local workforce development board contact: Michele burns **Date:** 09/18/25

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Donna Daniels	Embry-Riddle	Education	Danied15@erau.edu
Jesse Spaid	Emerald Coast Technical College	Education	Jesse.spaid@walton.k12.fl.us
Cole Randall	One Okaloosa	Economic Development	cole@oneokaloosa.org
Caralee Gibson	GSC Systems	Industry	c.gibson-15@gscsystems.net
*Cathy Starkey	GSC Systems	Industry	Cathy.starkey@gscsystems.net
Al Smith	Consultant	HR Florida State Council	Alonzo3206@gmail.com
Dave Underwood	Grants & Compliance EDA – Walton Count	Economic development	underwoodcol@outlook.com

Name	Organization	Industry or Education	Contact Information
Jon Williams	Okaloosa Tech College	Education	Williamsj2@okaloosaschools.com
Dennis Braun	Northwest Florida State College	Education	braund@nwfsc.edu
Derek Mattingly	City of FWB	Industry	dmattingly@fwb.org
*Li Pernaselci	ATA	Education	
Staff Present			
Brad Balfanz	CSOW	Workforce	bbalfanz@careersourceow.com
Tabathia Ewerds	CSOW	Workforce	tewerds@careersourceow.com
Michele Burns	CSOW	Workforce	mburns@careersourceow.com

B. SUMMARY REPORT

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Michele Burns.

2. Labor Market Information and Industry Trends

Brad Balfanz gave an informative update on the Departments, local targeted occupations list, eligible training providers list, ETPL relationship diagram, types of training providers, training provider eligibility and ETP Performance Criteria.

3. CareerSource Okaloosa Walton Training Update

Presented by Brad Balfanz.

Prior Year 2024 - 69 participants received ITA's and entered employment with an average hourly wage of \$23.45.

Q1 – 15 additional participants entered employment at an average wage of \$28.76.

Individual Training Accounts up to \$6000.00.

- Expiring Grants – Commercial Drivers License, Sector Based Initiative – Transportation, Florida Healthcare, Get There Faster.

Practical Nursing is still the number one program for training with 38 Participants.

4. Talent Needs

GSC is in need of technicians and has another company in need of carpenters.

5. Education Programs

NWFSC had the groundbreaking on their new Nursing Building. Emerald Coast Technical College is the first technical college to receive the Purple Star Rating. They are also holding a Career and College Day on November 7th.

6. Roundtable

Dave Underwood from Wonderful Walton asked if Lecom Dental School was a training provider and currently they are not. He will reach out to them and let them know about us.

7. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 10:10.

Next meeting Date: To be determined.