

# CAREERSOURCE OKALOOSA WALTON EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report quarter:** 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

**Date of meeting:** 6/11/2026

**Report prepared by:** Michele Burns

**Local workforce development board contact:** Michele Burns **Date:** 6/15/2026

## B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Dennis Braun	Northwest Florida State College	Education	
Donna Daniels	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Education	
Caralee Gibson	GSC Systems Inc	Industry	
Glenn Boschen	Micro Systems	Industry	
Tarey Franxman	Walton County	Industry/Government	
Chasity Fry	Live Oak Fiber	Industry	
Dave Underwood	Walton County Economic Development Alliance	Economic Development	

Name	Organization	Industry or Education	Contact Information
Bonnie Barlow	Bridgeway	Industry - Healthcare	
Dennis Braun	NWFSC	Education	
Maddie Ostrowski	University of West Florida	Education	
Guest – Lynn Fischer	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Guest – Adam Monroe	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Guest – Liz Pernalceli	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Guest – Kellie Jo Kilberg	Seacoast Collegiate High School	Education	
Guest – Lynn Fischer	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Guest - Cathy Starkey	GSC Systems	Industry	
Guest – Mindy Larson	Seacoast Collegiate High School	Education	
Guest - Rebecca Beam	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Guest - Christine Harper	Applied Technology Academy	Education	
Staff – Michele Burns			

Staff- Kelly Jordan			
Staff – Will Miles			

**B. SUMMARY REPORT**

1. Summary analysis of the local labor market based on the industry representative needs and education offerings. Please see the attached presentation.
2. Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area. Please see the attached presentation.
- 3.
4. Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations Please see the attached presentation.

**Meeting Summary**

The consortium reviewed regional labor market trends, Workforce Pell implementation, employer needs, and education and workforce partnership opportunities.

**Discussion Highlights**

- Reviewed labor market data, highlighting the region's priority industries: healthcare, manufacturing, construction, professional services, and public administration.
- Discussed regional commuting patterns and the continued impact of defense-related employment on the local workforce.
- Provided an overview of the new Workforce Pell program, including eligibility requirements, approved credentials, and employer-driven program criteria.
- Discussed the importance of stackable, portable, industry-recognized credentials and employment outcomes.
- Shared updates from education and training providers on new programs, career services, and recruitment efforts.
- Discussed behavioral health workforce shortages and employer challenges in recruiting qualified staff.
- Highlighted K-12 initiatives to expand career exploration, credentialing, internships, and work-based learning opportunities.
- Announced upcoming career events, including the **Star-Spangled Career Fair on July 16** and the launch of the **Tech Campus** initiative this fall.
- CareerSource Okaloosa Walton shared available resources, including the Mobile Career Center and career assessment tools.

### **Action Items**

- Kelly Jordan will distribute the meeting presentation, Workforce Pell information, career assessment resources, and Mobile Career Center information.
- Partners will share recruitment contacts and promote short-term training opportunities.
- Organizations interested in participating in the July 16 Career Fair will notify CareerSource Okaloosa Walton.
- Education and workforce partners will continue collaborating on internships, employer engagement, and career awareness activities.

**Next Meeting:** To be announced.