



# EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY REPORT

## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

**Report quarter:**   Q1  

**Date of meeting:**   9/18/2024  

**Report prepared by:**   Terri Clark  

**Local workforce development board contact:**   Terri Clark   **Date:**   9/18/2024  

## B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Laura Roberts	Manatee Technical College	Education	Roberts1@manateeschools.net
Ron Serpliss	State College of Florida	Education	Serplir@scf.edu
Mireya Eavey	Credit Union 1	Finance Industry	Mireya.eavey@creditunion1.org
Rob Harris	SAMA	Manufacturing Industry	Execdir@sama-fl.com

## B. SUMMARY REPORT

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

The Education and Industry Consortium Committee (EICC) discussed the current Regional Demand List of Occupations (RDOL). Highlighting credentials that have been removed and added. The EICC group is familiar with the RDOL and understands it drives decisions related to training opportunities and available resources within the two-county service region. After the meeting, TClark provided committee members with a copy of the 24-25 program year RDOL via email.

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

EICC members present represented the manufacturing and finance sectors. Both spoke on current labor trends, industry engagement, and potential skills gaps as seen in their respective areas. The committee discussed 'employability skills' related to remote/hybrid work environments and how employees often need 'tech refresher' to stay competent in their skills. The finance sector specifically has seen a continuance, if not growth, in hybrid work which has caused an increase for training related to tools such as Microsoft 365, Teams, SharePoint, etc.

While the manufacturing sector continues to primarily be a 'face to face' occupation, the increase in language barriers amongst entry level workers is on the rise. Industry participation continues to be an area of focus within the manufacturing sector. An EICC educational committee member reported the increase in enrollment at a local technical college in the manufacturing trades program. Connecting industry to educational opportunities continues to be a key focus area, and one opportunity is "Workforce Wednesdays." Workforce Wednesdays allows one industry each week to set up an informational booth on campus to highlight employment opportunities helping to bridge the gap from 'school to work.'

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

The EICC committee discussed current occupations within the local workforce area that is experiencing worker shortage, and a discussion was held on various

reasons for this shortage. The EICC committee was provided a copy of the Lightcast report “The Rising Storm.” This in-depth report discusses the rise of baby boomers exiting the labor force at a higher than anticipated rate, while also providing a labor outlook for the decade ahead.

Quarter 2 Meeting Preparation:

- Next meeting (Q2) will be held on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11am via Teams.
- Educational representatives serving on the EICC will present on current trends, programs, opportunities, and barriers currently experiencing.