

# Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board Chairman's Report

December 2011

## Training - The Road to a New Career

### Employment Statistics Pasco / Hernando Region November 2011

#### Unemployment Rate

- 13.1% Hernando
- 11.4% Pasco
- 10.3% Tampa Metro
- 9.8% Florida
- 8.2% U.S.

\*Source: Florida's Department of  
Economic Opportunity  
(www.employflorida.com).

Numbers are not seasonally adjusted.

#### Upcoming Job Fairs

Bilirakis Job Fair –  
February 2012

Hernando County Job Fair –  
April 2012

### Florida's Minimum Wage Increases

Effective January 1, 2012,  
Florida's minimum wage will  
change from \$7.31 to \$7.67  
per hour for traditional W-2  
employees and a direct wage  
of \$4.65 per hour for tipped  
employees.

Ryan Alise's story is not uncommon. Having worked in construction all his life, he had no other experience, and after being laid off in June 2010, his prospects were bleak. Ryan had a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) from many years ago and considered employment as a truck driver. He went to Roadmaster's Driving School and learned that his license and skills were outdated. Unsure how he would cover the costs associated with training and licensure, Ryan was connected with Career Central. Case Managers at Career Central helped Ryan with the enrollment process at Roadmaster's Driving School and covered the cost of tuition. Armed with an updated CDL-A and new skills, Ryan's future was looking brighter. Case Managers also helped Ryan with the job search and he was hired right away by Stevens Transport earning \$14.00/hour. An investment of \$1,500 and the support of the staff at Career Central helped return Ryan to the workforce. Looking back at his eighteen months of unemployment, Ryan says, "If I hadn't decided to change my field and look for other jobs, I would still be out of work. Thank you Career Central for showing me how."



## Youth Program Makes a Difference

Hernando County's 13.9% unemployment rate is a challenge for many, but especially for 18-year-old, Taela Mobley. She dropped out of high school after 9<sup>th</sup> grade, doesn't own a car and has the huge responsibility of raising a child on her own.



Her childhood dream was to become a doctor. Her passion as an adult is to "take care of people" and "further her future" in the health care industry. She gained exposure and hands-on experience through volunteer work as a nursing assistant at Spring Hill Rehabilitation and Brooksville Rehabilitation Center.

After attending the November Job Readiness Workshop, she was motivated to successfully complete certification in CPR, First Aid, Med Tech and CNA training. This preparation paved the way for an internship as a resident aide at an assisted living facility located within walking distance from her home. Her easy smile and friendly personality was so welcomed by the staff and residents that the executive director offered her a full-time job. Taela is gaining important job skills while waiting for her state CNA exam date. Taela says, "I'm thrilled to have a job where I can make a difference in other people's lives."

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

**January 12, 8.30 a.m.**

Audit Finance Committee  
Admin Office  
Brooksville

**January 12, 9.30 a.m.**

Executive Committee  
Admin Office  
Brooksville

**February 2, 2.00 p.m.**

Business Competitiveness  
Committee  
Admin Office  
Brooksville

**February 16, 3.00 p.m.**

Board Meeting  
Admin Office  
Brooksville

*For a complete list of Workforce Board and Committee meetings, visit the Career Central website and view the Board Calendar under the Workforce Board tab.*

### Our Mission

... enhance economic development efforts of our region by providing a well-trained, high-quality workforce which supports the success of local business and improves the quality of life.

### Our Vision

To serve as a catalyst in the community for promoting self-sufficiency through the development of a quality workforce

## Virtual Workshops: Bringing Training to the Customer

Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board continually focuses on providing relevant employability skills training to the job seekers of Pasco and Hernando counties. At Career Central, our One-Stop centers, more than 20 workshops are offered in a traditional classroom setting. And now 14 of those workshops are offered in the virtual format.

Always looking for ways to serve the job seekers of Pasco and Hernando counties, "Virtual Workshops" were launched in October. These online workshops bring job readiness training to our customers, allowing them the flexibility of receiving valuable training from their home.

The Department of Economic Opportunity gave the Virtual Workshops their seal of approval by allowing unemployment compensation customers to count the virtual workshops toward accessing re-employment services.

With workshop registrations quadrupling in the last two months, it's evident that our customers appreciate this new format. But the proof is in the feedback. Here are some comments received from Virtual Workshop participants:

"I was leery about the online experience. I was pleasantly surprised at how well the session went. I felt it was well managed and effective. I appreciate the opportunity to complete workshops without having to expend additional gas dollars."

"Thank you again -- hoping to see more of these available online it is very helpful and saves a lot of time."

"Thank you for these workshops online. They are very helpful and give good insight."

For a complete list of all workshops offered, visit [www.CareerCentral.jobs](http://www.CareerCentral.jobs).



*Career Central is a service of the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board.*