

**CareerSource Palm Beach County
LWDB 21
EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY CONSORTIUM of
the Palm Beaches: IT Industry Focus
QUARTERLY REPORT**

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: 3

Date of meeting: September 17, 2024

Report prepared by: Julia Dattolo

Local workforce development board contact: Julia Dattolo

B. ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Industry or Education Organization	Contact Information
Julia Dattolo	CareerSource Palm Beach County	Workforce	jdattolo@careersourcepbc.com
Deana Pizzo	I.T. Solutions	I.T	dpizzo@itsolutions247.com
Pilar Taylor	Florida Atlantic University	Stiles-Nicholson STEM	ptaylor2007@fau.edu
Barbara Cipriano	Palm Beach State College	Education	cipriani@palmbeachstate.edu
Shad Goetsch	One Business Software	AI Development	shad@one.biz
Bruce Campbell	Nova Southeastern University	Education	bruccamp@nova.edu

Nancy Romance	Florida Atlantic University	STEM Education	romance@fau.edu
Dr. Jeraline Johnson	School District of Palm Beach County	Education (Choice & Career)	Jeraline.johnson@palmbeachschools.org
Fred Barch	School District of Palm Beach County	Education (Adult)	fred.barch@palmbeachschools.org
Mabel Colon	Community Foundation of PBC	Grants	mcolon@cfpbmc.org
Ashton Adler	South Florida Tech Hub	Tech	ashton@techhubfl.org
Michael Corbit	CareerSource Palm Beach County	Workforce	mcorbit@careersourcepbc.com
Marney Erichsen	CareerSource Palm Beach County	Workforce	merichsen@careersourcepbc.com
Charles Duval	CareerSource Palm Beach County	Workforce	cduval@careersourcepbc.com
Mark Howard	Cox Science Center	PBC STEM Ecosystem Education	mhoward@coxsciencecenter.org
John Hadley	Palm Beach State College	Computer Science	hadleyj@palmbeachstate.edu
Jean Claude Norman	Keiser University	Education	jeanclauden@keiseruniversity.edu
Nikki Cabus	South Florida Tech Hub	Tech	nikki@techhubfl.org

B. SUMMARY REPORT

CareerSource Palm Beach County: Education & Industry Consortium of the Palm Beaches (IT Industry Focus) Meeting Summary

The meeting began with introductions, setting a collaborative tone as attendees shared their names, job titles, and affiliations. The consortium, established to foster collaboration between education and businesses, focuses on addressing industry-specific needs, particularly in the IT sector.

Key Questions Raised:

- What are the greatest needs in the IT industry?
- How can we build a stronger tech ecosystem in the region?
- How do we address gaps in the talent pipeline?

Key Discussions:

- **State of the IT Industry in Palm Beach County:** The IT sector contributes \$4.2 billion to the regional economy. However, the local supply of IT jobs is below the national average, with most concentrated in the southern part of the county. Anticipated growth in telecommunications and the integration of IT across industries post-pandemic was highlighted, particularly in cybersecurity and remote work.
- **Learner Pathways and Educational Offerings:** Updates were provided on educational pathways from middle school through adult education, focusing on STEM programs and cybersecurity academies. Partnerships between school districts and institutions like Palm Beach State College were emphasized. Universities such as Nova Southeastern and Keiser also discussed new programs in cloud engineering, cybersecurity, and doctoral-level IT degrees.
- **Industry Needs and Soft Skills:** Participants stressed the importance of integrating soft skills (e.g., critical thinking, communication) into education alongside technical skills. Professional development for teachers was discussed, including externships with industry partners to equip educators with relevant, hands-on experience. Industry leaders focused on need for more educational programming that focused on coding, cybersecurity and AI.

- **Building a Tech Ecosystem:** The challenges of building a thriving tech ecosystem in West Palm Beach were explored, particularly the need for more startups, incubators, and collaborative spaces. The discussion highlighted the role of universities and community efforts in creating a vibrant tech scene.
- **South Florida Tech Hub Initiatives:** Tech Hub's initiatives were showcased, including events like hackathons and Tech palooza, aimed at fostering talent development and industry engagement. Expanding partnerships between industry and educational institutions was also emphasized.

Action Items:

1. Expand adult education programs to meet industry needs (Fred Barch).
2. Update learner pathway language and charts (Julia Dattolo - done).
3. Revise learner pathway tool with meeting changes (John Hadley - done).
4. Explore strategies to support the tech ecosystem and incubators (Mark Howard).
5. Continue expanding Tech Hub initiatives and partnerships.
6. Tech Hub Talent Committee to develop a roadmap for industry-education collaboration.



Learner Pathway
September 2024.ppt