



Quarterly Report

Business & Education Council Meeting

August 12, 2025
12:00 pm

Employers in Attendance:

Tanyisha Thomas (Big Bend Transit), Katie Harwood (Tallahassee Chamber), Lindsay Holzmacher (FSU-HR), Trish Andrews (GDLS)

Education Providers in Attendance:

Phyllis Watson (FAMU), Regina Browning (Leon County ACE), Matt Roberson (Leon County Schools), BJ VanCamp (Lively Tech)

Members Absent:

Sally Wheeler (Wakulla County Schools), Angela Sapp (Gadsden Technical College), Rocky Hanna (Leon County Schools K-12), Shyam Mistry (Keiser University), Calandra Stringer (TSC), Kim Anders (Prime), Claudia Foreman (CHP), Allie Salyer (LSCU), Gloria Pugh (AMWAT)

Staff: Trish Yahn, Khari Harrison, Britny Bacon, Christopher Gabenski, Jim McShane

I. Welcome & Call to Order – Trish Yahn, staff liaison

Meeting called to order at 12:02 p.m. Each attendee introduced themselves, their role and title of their organization.

II. Labor Market Information – Trish Yahn

- Labor Market information was provided to the member focused on Apprenticeship data including industries with RAs, demographics of apprentices, and comparison of RAs in the US to other countries. This was a lead in to the guest speaker's topic.

III. Guest Speaker: Katrina Johnson, Apprenticeship Navigator CSCR

Katrina provided a brief presentation on the basics of what apprenticeships are, how they benefit both employers and employees, and the types of apprenticeships available in our region. Some of the newer registered apprenticeships in our region include:

- Fence Erector
- Medical Assistant
- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Pre-School Teacher
- Surgical Technician
- Fire Alarm Technician

- Office Manager
- Deputy Sheriff

Following Katrina's presentation, BJ VanCamp was asked to talk about how Lively assists with related technical instruction. BJ specifically spoke about their HVAC program and the success that program has had.

IV. Educator/Employer Discussion

- Trish Andrews stated that GDLS struggles with sourcing qualified electronic technicians. She said that at GDLS they need to be able to work at the component level and the people they hire right out of school do not receive the detailed education required for her positions.
- Lindsay Holzmacher has high needs for facilities employees, most in roles like carpentry, HVAC plumber, etc. She believes apprenticeships may be a good option but needs to speak with her team at FSU to see if they can work on adding RAs.
- BJ VanCamp would like to meet with Lindsay and the FSU team because she believes Lively has a good stream of candidates that could work for FSU positions.
- Tanyisha Thomas is still in need of drivers, and she recognizes that education is not a pain point, her biggest pain points are finding candidates willing to do the non-driving tasks of the job, and she can only hire candidates over the age of 23 for insurance reasons.
- Regina Browning from ACE may be able to help funnel candidates and provided contact information to Tanyisha for further discussion.

V. Other Discussion

- BJ asked if DOE is taking any steps to reduce the amount of paperwork required to get a new apprenticeship registered. Katrina responded that they generally are trying to use existing RAs and modifying them to meet the needs of employers. A modification takes much less time to get approved.
- Matt Roberson asked to meet with Katrina to discuss how RAs may be beneficial to students, a connection was made after the meeting between the two to set up a time for further discussion.
- BJ asked about pre-apprenticeships, and Katrina responded that pre-apprenticeships are a large focus for her. She is currently working with FAMU-DRS, Rickards High School and Jefferson County Schools to develop viable pre-apprenticeships.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m. by Trish Yahn. Next meeting will be via Zoom on November 18, 2025 12:00-1:00 pm