

CareerSource Southwest Florida  
Business & Economic Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 22, 2026  
3:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

John Talmage-Chair	Lucienne Pears-Virtual
Keitha Daniels -Virtual	Michael Wukitsch-Virtual
Sarah Harrington-Virtual	
Brent Kettler	
Sloan Nagy-Virtual	

**Members Absent:**

Adrian Kerr  
Adrian Llanes

**Guest Present:**

Shelby Baucom, SWFL STEM Education  
Richard Ching, Mid-Jet  
Rob Harris, Southwest Regional Manufactures Association  
Jennifer Thayer, Lee Health  
Yolanda Flores, Workforce Wise Solutions  
CareerSource Southwest Florida Education & Industry Consortium

**Staff Present:**

Bill Welch- Staff Liaison	Rebecca Sandholdt
Peg Elmore	Lyntoria Thomas

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair, John Talmage. Lyntoria Thomas called role and confirmed quorum was met.

Yolanda Flores, CareerSource Southwest Florida Education and Industry Consortium Facilitator called role for the consortium.

**II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 21, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Brent Kettler made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025 meeting minutes; Mike Wukitsch seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

**III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-** Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come today! - John Talmage

**IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Peg Elmore, CareerSource Southwest Florida, President and CEO gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the CareerSource Southwest Florida's Business & Economic Development Committee and the CareerSource Southwest Florida's Education & Industry Consortium.

## **V. JOBS OF THE FUTURE**

There was a discussion on current and future workforce needs across multiple high-impact industries in Southwest Florida. The discussion centered on the aviation repair industry's increasing need for skilled technicians, the need for enhanced workforce training pipelines, and the importance of strengthening apprenticeship programs to meet maintenance and repair needs. There was an emphasis on the labor shortages and skills gaps within the manufacturing industry, emphasizing the necessity of aligning training programs with high-tech and automation driven environments.

The discussion addressed regional workforce development priorities, including expanding opportunities in engineering and other STEM-related fields, and the impact of how robotics and advanced technologies are reshaping job roles and skill requirements. There is an urgent need to build a pipeline that can support high-tech industries.

Healthcare workforce shortages and training challenges were also a part of the discussion, attention to clinical role demand, technological advancements in care delivery, and the need for scalable training opportunities.

The conversation included broader topics related to development dynamics and collaboration between industry, education, and economic organizations. Strategies were discussed for retaining local talent after graduation, improving pathways from education to employment, and attracting and retaining skilled workers in the region's growing economy.

**VI. OPEN FORUM-** Thank you again for coming everybody, this was Great! -John Talmage

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT-** None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT-** The meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.