

CareerSource Palm Beach County Launches New Pre-Apprenticeship Programs in Marine, Aviation/Aerospace Industries; Online Applications Open

West Palm Beach, Fla. (March 3, 2020) – CareerSource Palm Beach County today announced that applications are open to students and employers for new pre-apprenticeship programs in the marine and aviation/aerospace industries. These new programs are in addition to other local and statewide pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs in the high-demand fields of information technology, construction, healthcare and hospitality.

“These new pre-apprenticeship programs are the latest examples of the innovative solutions we are pursuing with our local employers and educational partners to address demand for skilled talent and provide greater opportunity for Palm Beach County residents seeking rewarding careers,” said Julia Dattolo, interim president and CEO of CareerSource Palm Beach County, the non-profit organization chartered to lead workforce development in the county.

“The marine industry in Palm Beach County alone employs more than 21,000 people, and the industry is growing at a rate where there are more vacancies than there are skilled workers to fill them,” said George Gentile, Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County board chair and senior partner at Gentile Glas Holloway O’Mahoney and Associates. “We are grateful for this opportunity to help our marine industry businesses get the skilled workers they need for everyone to be successful.”

CareerSource Palm Beach County is partnering with the Marine Industries Association and CareerSource Research Coast in establishing the marine pre-apprenticeship program. The marine industry’s economic impact in Palm Beach County is estimated to be \$2.1 billion, creating more than 21,000 jobs. Thousands of others are working for more than 800 local businesses that support this industry.

The aviation/aerospace industry in Palm Beach County has a workforce of 13,000 employed by 1,090 companies. CareerSource Palm Beach County partners with companies such as Sikorsky, Power Systems Manufacturing, BRPH, and Gulfstream. Education partners include Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach State College, Flight Safety International and Boynton Aeronautical School, Inc., which is one of eight FAA certified Part 147 programs in Florida.

More than a dozen employers in Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast are participating in the new marine and aviation/aerospace pre-apprenticeship programs, including Gulfstream Aviation, Boca Aircraft Maintenance, Pursuit Boats, Whiticar Boats and others.

Through the pre-apprenticeship programs, students can:

- Connect with top employers ready to hire
- Earn while gaining real world experience
- Earn industry-recognized credentials

Employers interested in participating in the programs will:

- Access a talented pool of candidates
- Obtain funding to support training
- Build a flexible, dynamic workforce with common skillsets

Students must be 18 years or older. Any marine, aviation/aerospace or manufacturing related firms are welcome to participate. Potential students and employers interested in learning about these and other apprenticeships programs can access www.careersourcepbc.com or contact gcope@careersourcepbc.com for more information.

CareerSource Palm Beach County also supports Apprentice Florida, a partnership between the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and CareerSource Florida. The program encourages and assists businesses in establishing apprenticeships, and educates individuals about pursuing careers through apprenticeships.

National Apprenticeship Facts—did you know:

- 94% of apprentices retain employment after completing an apprenticeship program.
- The average starting wage after completing an apprenticeship program is \$70,000.
- Workers who complete apprenticeship programs earn \$300,000 more over a career than their peers who don't.
- Apprentices earn while they learn, reducing the potential to take on debt.

During the past five program years, CareerSource Palm Beach County assisted 80,500 residents find employment ranging from entry level to executive suite, with salaries from these jobs creating \$1.85 billion in annual wages. CareerSource also awarded \$23 million in grants to area businesses and employers for training and educational assistance during that time.

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