

Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board Chairman's Report

June 2011

Healthcare On-the-Job Training Success

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

Did you know that since July 1, 2010 Career Central has:

- assisted over 3,000 people in finding employment
- listed over 2,100 jobs for employers in Pasco and Hernando counties
- helped more than 300 Veterans find employment

Visit our website (www.careercentral.jobs) for information on the exciting events scheduled each month.

Traditionally on-the-job training programs are associated with manufacturing type jobs. But for Michael Minor, an OJT program in the Healthcare field gave the former mechanic new skills for success.

"I was working as a small engine mechanic when my employer had to close his business because of the downturn" stated Michael. He had a variety of jobs over the years and had always worked. But after his employer closed their doors, Michael found himself unemployed for two years. Things changed for the better when he found a part-time retail position. Thankful to be employed again, it was not enough. "I was so close to losing my house", said Michael, "and the stress was just unbelievable."

Then came a phone call that turned things around. Michael was offered a position through Career Central's On-the-Job Training Program. Now Michael feels like he's in an important, responsible role as a Monitor Technician with a great employer. "Roger Haney and all the hospital staff at Medical Regional Center Bayonet Point have been so supportive and helpful" stated Michael. "I am so grateful."



Michael Minor

On-the-Job Training Opportunities Still Available

There are several jobs available through the OJT Program in areas such as Healthcare, Fabrication, Manufacturing, Electronics, Customer Service, Office/ Clerical, Sales, Assembly, etc.

On-the-Job Training programs allow eligible participants to receive training for a specific job. While the participant is being trained, the employer receives funding to offset the costs of employment.

For more information, visit <http://www.careercentral.jobs/Jobseeker/OJTJ.aspx>, or call one of our Work Program Coordinators at 866-396-9675, ext. 3060.



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

Inspiring Local Businesses

To further the message on the advantages of hiring individuals with disabilities, the Services for Individuals with Disabilities Committee was honored to be the guest speaker at the Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce breakfast event on May 25.

The Committee was fortunate to have Mark Swiconек speak about his experience as a person with disabilities and what work and athletics mean to him. Mark held the audience with a unique and effective oratory as he told of growing up with physical and cognitive challenges. He talked about enduring physical therapy which started at a very early age and his mother's refusal to give up on him. In middle-school in the early 1970s, an attentive teacher encouraged Mark to compete in Special Olympics. Mark said he found something he was good at. Forty years later, Mr. Swiconек still competes, and is an ambassador for Special Olympics.

Mark was employed by Stanley Tools for over a decade before moving to Florida. Today, he works at Oak Hill Hospital -- a job he has held for over 12 years. He spoke about being a team member and his dedication to being the best employee he can. He spoke about worthiness and how persons with disabilities are worthy of being your neighbor, your employee, and your friend. It was clear that Mark's inspiring message was received by the attendees as they rose to give Mr. Swiconек a standing ovation.



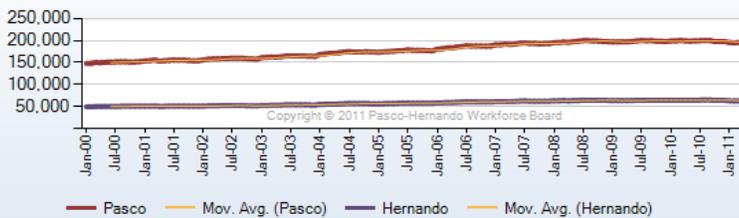
One-Stop Spot for Labor and Economic Area Info

Want to check out the most recent statistics on the *Growth in the Local Workforce*? Interested in the latest *Consumer Confidence Index*? Now this data is available at your fingertips. Visit www.phwbworkforcereport.com to

see the recently-launched website for the live, inter-active version of the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Report.

This report provides important information relevant to the Pasco-Hernando Region such as unemployment rates, wage trends, industry and occupation growth data, housing and construction data, as well as in-house surveys.

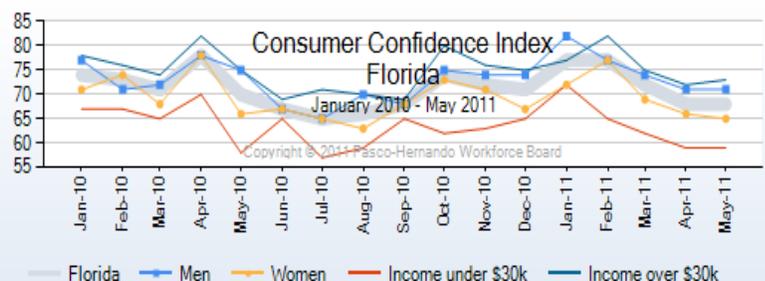
Growth in Local Workforce
January 2000 - April 2011
Florida, Pasco, Hernando



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics - issued monthly for State, County and Metropolitan Statistical Area estimated unemployment rates.

Businesses, governmental organizations, and many others rely on information regarding the Pasco-Hernando Region for research, planning, business development, etc.

Visit www.careercentral.jobs and follow the link for the **Subscription Center** to sign up for the Workforce Report. You'll receive an email notification containing a link to the various segments of the report as new data is available and reports are updated.



Source: Florida Consumer Confidence Index - a monthly survey by the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research