



Education & Industry Consortium QUARTERLY REPORT

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Report quarter: Q3 2025-2026: January 1- March 31, 2026

Date: 3/24/2026

Date of meeting: 3/23/2026

Report prepared by: Amy Nickerson & Stacy Campbell-Domineck

Local workforce development board contact: Stacy Campbell-Domineck

B. ATTENDANCE - MEMBERS

Name		Organization	Industry or Education Org.
Amy Bratten, Ph.D., Chair	Excused	Polk State College	Education
Ana Ayala	Absent	Southeastern University	Education
Steve Campbell	Excused	S & B Metal Products	Advanced Manufacturing
Cindy Collins (Raul)	Present (Sub)	RP Funding Center	Entertainment, Arts & Tourism
Michael De Marzo	Absent	Walmart E-Commerce	Logistics, Supply Chain, & Distribution
Diane Gibbs	Excused	BayCare Health Systems	Health Sciences
Alex Lucio	Absent	Assure Infusions	Research & Technology
Carole McKenzie	Absent	Polk County Farn Bureau	Agri-business & Agri-technology
Rusty Mouton	Excused	South State Bank	Business Services
Orathai Northern, Ph.D.	Excused	SUN 'n FUN Aerospace Expo & Aerospace Center for Excellence	Aviation
Andy Oguntola, Ed.D.	Excused	Florida Polytechnic University	Education
Alex Rich, Ph.D. (Diane Baires)	Absent	AGB Museum	Entertainment, Arts & Tourism
Linda Williams, Ph.D.	Present	Lakeland Regional Health	Health Sciences

C. OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

S. Campbell-Domineck, CS Polk	Samantha Linder, PCPS	Helen Sneed, Drive the Goal
Patricial Collins, Polk State College	Chrissanne Long – Digital Media	Laura Webster, PCPS
Craig Clevenger, Junior Achievement	Amy Nickerson, Polk Vision	Ray Winterhalt, FSC
Reba Coil, Polk County Public Schools	Ryan Reis, Webber International University	Michelle Zamora, CFDC
Anthony Da Silva, Strategic Synergy Consulting Group	Daniel Rivera	Lindsay Zimmerman, CFDC

B. MINUTES

Education and Industry Consortium Quarterly Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026 – 10:00AM
Polk State College Center for Public Safety
1251 Jim Keene Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33880
Minutes

Dr. Amy Bratten (Designee), Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00A.M.

A. Welcome and Introductions

In the absence of Dr. Amy Bratten, Amy Nickerson called on all those present to introduce themselves.

CareerSource Polk's President & CEO distributed the Industry Occupation Report and the Career Exploration- Polk Industry Flyers to the members. She also announced their upcoming events:

- ✓ April 8: **Spring Job Fair** at Lake Eva Event Center | 10:00a – 1:00pm
- ✓ April 16: **Virtual Roundtable: Why You Want to Hire for Potential Over Perfection** | 2:30-4:00p
- ✓ May 21: **Virtual Roundtable: The Great Reveal: Demystifying Healthcare Costs for Employer Health Plans**
- ✓ August 20: CareerSource Polk's **Annual Meeting & Best Places to Work Awards Breakfast** – Celebrating 30 Years

B. Level Setting -Job Readiness Exercise

Campbell-Domineck provided a level-setting overview to establish a common foundation for the Job Readiness discussion. This included framing Job Readiness as a shared responsibility among educators, employers, and workforce partners.

Gallery Walk One

Participants engaged in the Gallery Walk, contributing written responses around the following guiding questions:

- Who teaches Job Readiness?
- What do employers mean by Job Readiness?
- When do we begin Job Readiness instruction?
- Where do employees learn Job Readiness?
- Why is Job Readiness critical in the workplace?
- How do we assess Job Readiness?

Participants rotated through each station, reviewing questions and adding responses based on their perspectives and experiences. Once all responses were posted, participants had the opportunity to raise questions, share reflections, and offer insights related to Job Readiness and workforce preparation. There was a very robust discussion engaging everyone present.

C. Recommendations for the workforce board

CareerSource Polk's President & CEO committed to taking the information garnered during this meeting to her team to discuss how they can apply this information in their everyday interactions with those who present at the career centers and through youth services. She also said she would meet with her leadership team to discuss how this brief survey can be completed by their employers to garner a broader perspective.

D. Public Comment and Matters for the Floor

Time was provided for public comment and additional matters.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Next E&I Consortium Meeting, May 18, 2026, 10:00 AM | Polk State College Center for Public Safety Room 113