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**CareerSource Polk Celebrates 2024 Annual Meeting and Best Places to Work Awards**  
*More than \$50,000 awarded in Workforce Incentive Awards*

**WHAT:** 2024 Annual Meeting Featuring CareerSource Polk’s Best Places to Work Awards  
**WHEN:** Thursday, August 15, 2024, 8:00- 10:00 am (Doors open at 7:30 a.m.)  
**WHERE:** RP Funding Center  
 701 West Lime Street, Lakeland, FL 33815

Lakeland, Fla. (August 15, 2024) – CareerSource Polk honored workforce achievements in Polk County with awards recognizing community partners, individuals, and businesses. This year’s theme, "The Talk – The Insider’s View of the Workplace," provided valuable insights into how various generations are navigating today’s workforce. Lakeland Housing Authority served as the title sponsor, demonstrating ongoing support for the organization, while Regal Automotive Group (Regal Lakeland), Polk State College, and Central Florida Development Council also partnered as event sponsors.

For the last 20 years, CareerSource Polk has recognized companies in Polk County with the Best Places to Work Awards, a unique honor dedicated to those who demonstrate exemplary workplace practices and are dedicated to enhancing their employees' quality of life. Awards were given to businesses across Small, Medium, and Large Business Categories. Companies that have won a Best Places to Work Award for three consecutive years were distinguished with the title of "Employers of Distinction."

**2023 Best Places to Work Award Recipients**

<b>Small Business Category (1 to 50 employees):</b>	<b>Medium Business Category (51 to 250 employees):</b>	<b>Large Business Category (251+ employees):</b>
The Agricultural & Labor Program (ALPI)	A-C-T Environmental & Infrastructure	City of Haines City
J.P. Lamborn Co. ShopMadden	American Vulkan Corporation Bank of Central Florida	LEGOLAND Florida Resort MIDFLORIDA Credit Union
The Lunz Group	Citrus Connection Cutrale Citrus Juices USA Inc. CWI Logistics	SouthState Bank
	The Estates at Carpenters Ideal Cabinetry	
	Integrated Metal Products Polyglass USA	
	Veterinary Healthcare Associates	

## **Employers of Distinction – 2023-2025 Winners:**

CPS Investment Advisors  
Citizen's Bank & Trust  
Lakeland Housing Authority  
Pinnacle Sales Group

### **Board & Community Awards:**

#### **Hammer Award: Yesse Olivas, Tampa Maid Foods**

This award was named after one of CareerSource Polk's founding board members and a true champion of workforce development, Marvin Hammer. Created in 2001, this award honors a board member who has dedicated personal time and effort to CareerSource Polk's initiatives.

#### **Miller Award: Scott Dimmick, Lakeland Regional Health**

This award was created in 2009 and named after Larry Miller to recognize a board member who has demonstrated an overwhelming commitment to workforce development for our county through their engaged leadership, innovation, time, integrity, and high moral and ethical standards.

#### **Workforce Champion Award: Terrell Griffin, City of Haines City**

This award, created in 2007, honors a Polk County constituent for its efforts to support the local workforce system. The recipient of this award has demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting or improving the quality and success of workforce services to Polk County employers and/or workers.

#### **Chairman's Choice Pillar of Hope Award: Dayen Valentine, CareerSource Polk**

This award was created in 2022 by Board Chair Adil Khan to recognize and show appreciation to a frontline workforce development system staff person who has made significant impacts on the lives of others. The nominee must have clearly demonstrated an unwavering commitment to minimizing barriers and improving outcomes for those who engage with the local workforce development system.

At the Annual Meeting, President & CEO Stacy Campbell-Domineck presented the CareerSource Polk 2023-2024 Annual Report, which can be viewed here: <https://cspolk.info/23-24annualreport>. Both the event and the annual report recognize individuals and companies that made notable contributions to the workforce development board's initiatives in Polk County throughout the 2023-2024 program year.

CareerSource Polk's Board of Directors honored the recipients of the Workforce Incentive Awards, celebrating their resilience in overcoming significant employment barriers. These awards recognize community members who have fully engaged with the workforce system, using every resource to enhance their skills, secure jobs, and build brighter futures.



"As we celebrate our Workforce Incentive Award recipients, we're reminded of the real challenges many in our community face daily," said Stacy Campbell-Domineck, President & CEO of CareerSource Polk. "Barriers like affordable housing, transportation, and childcare can seem overwhelming, but through the support of our partners and the resilience of those we serve, we are creating pathways to success."

In Polk County, where challenges like unreliable transportation and high costs of living impact workplace success, this year's award recipients have shown extraordinary perseverance. During this year's event, CareerSource Polk provided over \$50,000 in Workforce Incentive Awards. Thanks to Regal Lakeland and the Lakeland Housing Authority, CareerSource Polk was able to give away five cars, and provide six individuals with funding for car repairs, three individuals with financial support for childcare, six with rent or mortgage assistance or funding for housing repair, and one with homeownership. The organization also surprised 24 members of the RP Funding Center event staff with \$200 each for their valuable service during our annual events. These efforts highlight CareerSource Polk's commitment to removing employment barriers and supporting community success.

### **About CareerSource Polk**

CareerSource Polk is a private, nonprofit administrator of workforce funds. Its mission is to be the innovative leader to ensure and sustain a quality workforce for today and the future. CareerSource Polk assists both businesses and job seekers through a wide range of quality programs and services at no cost.

The organization is an equal opportunity employer and proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711. For program funding details in compliance with the Stevens Amendment, please visit <https://cspolk.info/funding>.

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