

Contact: Denise Paschal
1389 US Hwy. 90 West, Ste. 170
Lake City, FL 32055
Phone: 386-755-9026 x 3207

Florida Crown
Workforce Board, Inc.

Press Release

Florida Crown Workforce Board awarded \$402,000 grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for local Workforce training.

Florida Crown Workforce Board, Inc. (FCWB), serving Region 7 comprised of Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union Counties has been awarded a \$402,000.00 grant under ARRA funding for local Workforce training. These funds will be used to provide scholarships and support services to eligible participants throughout the region. The WINGS initiative utilizes the strengths of local academic partners such as The Employ Florida Banner Center for Logistics & Transportation, Lake City Community College, New Horizons and their educational partners. This project represents the collaboration of leading academic experts in the field of green technology, broadband/communications technology, and entrepreneurship through logistics/transportation management.

The Workforce Innovation New Generation Solutions (**WINGS**) initiative addresses future industry needs of the region. The purpose of the grant is to develop the skills necessary for our local workforce to be competitive in the global marketplace. The project is innovative and creative in its attempt to address the anticipated explosive growth in North Florida. Critical areas targeted for growth are the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) expansion and the inland distribution and logistics centers which are projected for our region. The Green programs offered by New Horizons and the Banner Center are on the cutting edge of 21st century technology. These programs will prepare leaders who will design future systems and technology compatible with the environment. The broadband initiatives will train the workforce necessary to operate and maintain the broadband network that is anticipated for this region in the near future. The entrepreneurship programs will offer opportunities for those individuals who are interested in owning their own company to obtain the skills necessary to compete in the world marketplace.

Classes are projected to begin immediately and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so call today. Tuition, books and travel expenses will be paid for by the grant. All prospective participants will be processed for eligibility through the Florida Crown One-Stop offices and educational partners. We will work with these participants to tailor a program that enables them to receive the education and training they need to advance in their personal career goals and objectives while meeting the broader needs of Region 7's workforce.

For more information contact Denise Paschal at 386-755-9026 extension 3207 for an appointment.

*TTY via the Florida Relay Service 711. An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.