



**CareerEdge**  
**FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE**

CAREEREDGE FUNDERS COLLABORATIVE

# 2024 EVALUATION REPORT

CREATED BY: ELEVATE DATA

MARCH 2025

# CareerEdge Funders Collaborative

## 2024 Evaluation Report

March 2025

### Evaluation Executive Summary

#### Year-Over-Year Totals

|                                       | <b>2024</b> | <b>2010-2024</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Invested in workforce development     | \$1,300,412 | \$18,464,303     |
| Workers trained                       | 486         | 8,141            |
| Certifications earned                 | 594         | 10,236           |
| Workers who earned raises             | 259         | 5,192            |
| Annual earnings gains                 | \$2,097,285 | \$42,101,743     |
| Return on investment*                 | \$7.03      | \$9.87           |
| Promotions earned by workers          | 191         | 1,837            |
| New employers engaged                 | 23          | 517              |
| New jobs created by employer partners | 117         | 2,000            |

\* ROI calculation: Total aggregate earnings gains over CareerEdge investment in wage-growth programs (excludes STC Tiny Home and Leadership programs).

## 2024 Program Summary

### 2024 Training Inputs by Program

| <b>Program</b>                | <b>Total Invested</b> | <b>Partner Invested</b> | <b>CareerEdge Invested</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Upskilling Workers            | \$988,184             | \$810,684               | \$177,500                  |
| Bridges to Careers Fast Track | \$93,677              |                         | \$93,677                   |
| On-the-Job Training           | \$91,216              | \$82,168                | \$9,048                    |
| Internship Reimbursement      | \$94,947              | \$76,947                | \$18,000                   |
| STC Tiny Home*                | \$12,538              |                         | \$12,538                   |
| Leadership Training*          | \$19,850              |                         | \$19,850                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$1,300,412</b>    | <b>\$969,799</b>        | <b>\$330,613</b>           |

\* Not a wage-growth program; not included in wage change calculation and ROI.

### 2024 Training Outputs by Program

| <b>Program</b>                | <b>Workers Trained - Duplicated</b> | <b>Workers Trained - Unduplicated</b> | <b>Credentials Earned</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Upskilling Workers            | 291                                 | 289                                   | 286                       |
| Bridges to Careers Fast Track | 53                                  | 53                                    | 75                        |
| On-the-Job Training           | 4                                   | 4                                     |                           |
| Internship Reimbursement      | 12                                  | 12                                    |                           |
| STC Tiny Home*                | 79                                  | 79                                    | 233                       |
| Leadership Training*          | 47                                  | 47                                    |                           |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>486</b>                          | <b>484</b>                            | <b>594</b>                |

\* Not a wage-growth program; not included in total direct investment and wage change calculation.

## Wage-Driven Trainee Outcomes by Program

| <b>Wage-Driven Program</b>                   | <b>Start Wage</b> | <b>End Wage</b> | <b>Wage Difference</b> | <b>CareerEdge Investment</b> | <b>Annual Earnings Gains*</b> |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Upskilling Workers (attending and completed) | \$30.78           | \$32.30         | \$1.52                 | \$177,500                    | \$913,702                     |
| Bridges to Careers Fast Track                | \$11.51           | \$20.68         | \$9.17                 | \$93,677                     | \$1,010,901                   |
| On-the-Job Training                          | \$18.38           | \$20.13         | \$1.75                 | \$9,048                      | \$14,560                      |
| Internship Training                          | \$15.33           | \$28.00         | \$12.67                | \$18,000                     | \$158,122                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                 |                   |                 |                        | <b>\$298,225</b>             | <b>\$2,097,285</b>            |

\* The average hourly wage difference multiplied by the total number of unduplicated trainees at full-time equivalence of 2080 hours. Note that workers/trainees may be counted in more than one program category.

## Program Definition Update

In 2024, the CareerEdge evaluation team determined that the employment training programs can be split into wage-driven and career-driven workforce development pathways. The wage-driven pathway programs have the direct impact on the participants ability to increase earnings in the short- and medium-term. The career-driven workforce development pathway programs are designed to increase job skills, earn credentials, and provide employment stability. Employees pre- to post-wages are only key indicators only for the wage-growth programs and the interns offered employment post-internship, and only these earnings are included in the return on investment calculation.

In 2024 the wage-growth programs are the Upskilling Workers Grant, Bridges to Careers|Fast Track, and On-the-Job Training. The career-driven workforce development programs are STC Tiny Home, Internship Reimbursement, and Leadership Training.

## **Total Economic Impact**

The annual earnings gained represents the estimated income gains for one-year of full-time employment at the average hourly wage gain per trainee. However, the total economic impact for the area is greater than the trainees' annual income due to the additional economic activity generated from the increased earnings. The U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis provides direct effect multipliers by industry to estimate the total economic output of changes in earnings and employment (see methodology on page 25).

The total economic impact of the of nearly **\$2.1 million dollars** in increased earnings is roughly equivalent to **\$3.1 million dollars**.

The **117 new jobs** created equate to roughly **213 new employment opportunities** in the regional economy.

## Upskilling Workers

### Program Description

The goal of the CareerEdge Upskilling Workers program is to connect employers who need skilled workers with people looking for better jobs and higher wages. CareerEdge supports employers in the automotive, healthcare, insurance, manufacturing, and skilled trades industries. The partnership is employer-led and is designed to train the next generation of skilled workers.

### Population Served

The CareerEdge Upskilling Workers program engaged 14 employers in the Upskilling Workers program. Twelve employers trained new employees in 2024, and 8 employers provided updates on their 2023 trainees.

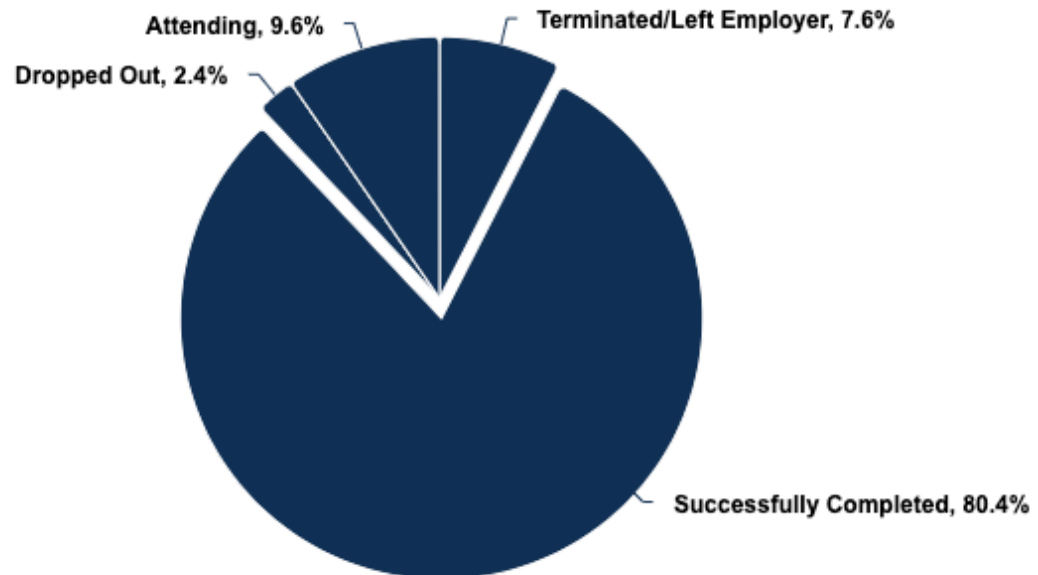
| Employer                   | 2024 New Trainees | 2023 Trainee Update |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Adams Group                | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Air Products               | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Badger Bobs                | ✓                 |                     |
| Bartelt Packaging          | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Boyd Insurance             | ✓                 |                     |
| Chris-Craft Corporation    | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Easterseals SWF            | ✓                 |                     |
| Jeldwen                    | ✓                 |                     |
| Lakewood Ranch Medical     |                   | ✓                   |
| Sarasota Memorial Hospital | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Sun Hydraulics             | ✓                 |                     |
| Teakdecking Systems        |                   | ✓                   |
| Tropitone                  | ✓                 | ✓                   |
| Veteran Air                | ✓                 |                     |

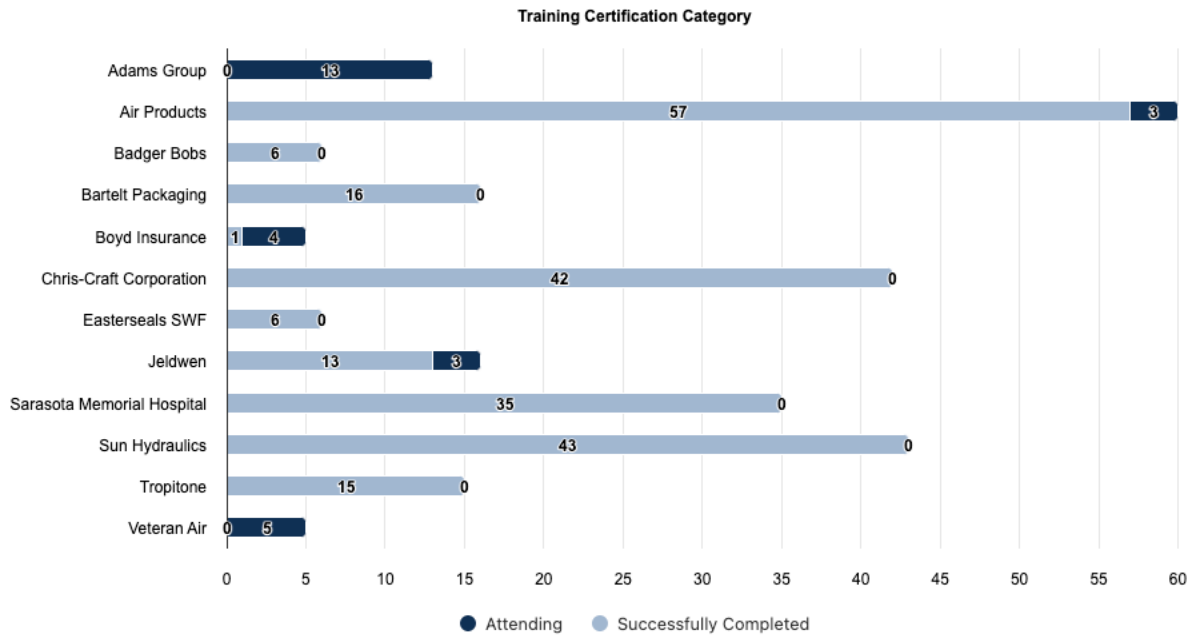
## Trainees Reporting Outputs in 2024

|                     | <b>Duplicated</b> | <b>Unduplicated</b> | <b>Certifications</b> | <b>Promotions</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2024 New Trainees   | 291               | 289                 | 234                   | 84                |
| 2023 Trainee Update | 203               | 195                 | 52                    | 77                |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>494</b>        | <b>484</b>          | <b>286</b>            | <b>161</b>        |

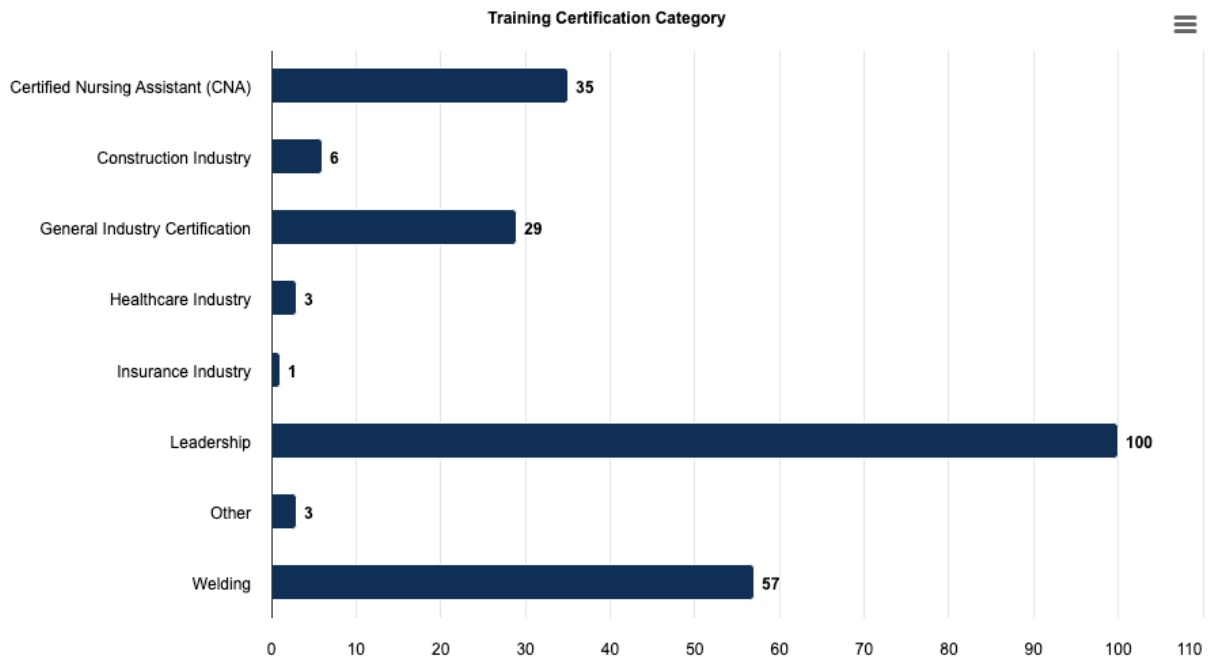
The Upskilling Workers program trained 289 trainees across 291 trainings in 2024. Of the 289 new trainees, 80.4% successfully completed their training in 2024. An additional 9.6% were still attending training as of December 31, 2024.

**Trainees by Current Training Status**

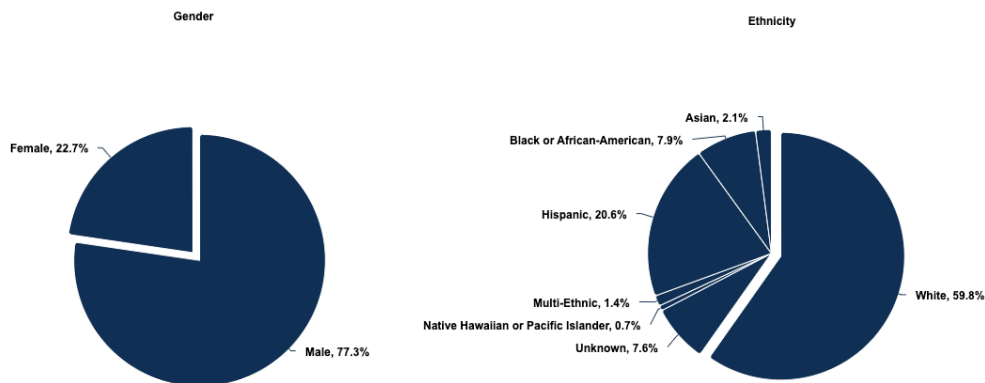




2024 trainees earned a total of 234 certifications through their participation in the Upskilling Workers program. Most certifications were earned as a general leadership (43%) and welding (24%).



Of the 2024 trainees, over 22% of trainees were female and over 32% were non-white/BIPOC.

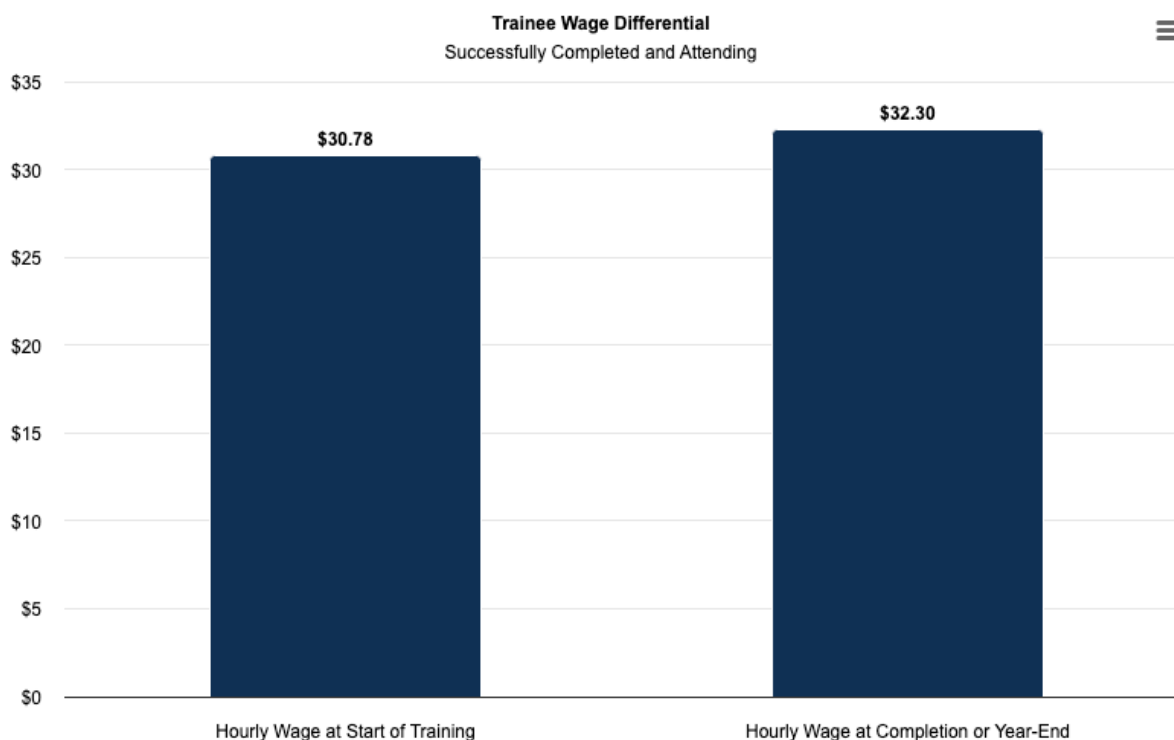


### Training Outcomes by Industry

|               | # Trained  | # Successfully Completed | #Attending | # Earned Raises | # Earned Credentials |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Construction  | 12         | 6                        | 5          | 11              | 6                    |
| Healthcare    | 43         | 41                       | 0          | 33              | 41                   |
| Insurance     | 5          | 1                        | 4          | 1               | 1                    |
| Manufacturing | 231        | 186                      | 19         | 83              | 186                  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>291</b> | <b>234</b>               | <b>28</b>  | <b>238</b>      | <b>234</b>           |

### Wage and Income Outcomes

For those successfully completed their training or were still attending as of December 31, 2024, the average wage at start of training was \$30.78 and the average hourly wage at the end of the training (or as of December 31, 2024 if training was ongoing) for those who reported end wages was \$33.30. The average wage increase of \$1.52 represents a 4.9% increase. The wage increase equates to an additional \$3,161 in earned income per trainee each year. Across the 289 unduplicated trainees, this wage increase equates to \$913,702 in annual earnings gains.



## Commission-Based Income

In 2024, the CareerEdge evaluation team explored the impact of commission-based income on trainees' overall earnings. The wage data presented reflects both standard wage increases and as well as earnings from commissions.

For some trainees, commission-based income significantly boosted their total earnings. For instance, one employer increased base wages for five trainees from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per hour. However, when commission earnings were factored in, their average hourly wage rose dramatically—from \$18.00 to \$51.44.

Recognizing that some employers provide substantial earnings increases through commissions, the 2025 wage evaluation will include a more in-depth analysis of how commission-based income contributes to overall earnings growth for CareerEdge trainees.

## 2023 Trainee Update

Year-two updates of the 2023 successfully completed Upskilling Workers trainees were provided for 203 trainees. Of those trainees, 52 received additional certifications and 77 had received a promotion in 2024. The average hourly wage as of December 31, 2023 of \$30.66 increased by an additional \$3.03 to \$33.69, indicating continued wage-growth post-training.

## Employer Qualitative Feedback

Employers were asked to provide information about how the CareerEdge Upskilling Workers program positively impacted their workforce. Employer feedback most often mentioned the skill development of their workforce, improved productivity and efficiency, and the increase in employee morale and engagement. Representative responses include:

"Training has significantly impacted our workforce by fostering a more skilled and confident team. As a result, we've seen a reduction in turnover, as team members feel more valued and supported in their professional growth. This investment in development has led to improved morale, with staff members taking pride in their enhanced capabilities. Additionally, training has boosted productivity and operational efficiency, as team members are better equipped to handle their tasks with greater precision and speed. Overall, it has contributed to a more cohesive and high-performing team, driving positive organizational outcomes."

"Because we require a multi-skilled workforce, this training enables us to maintain staffing levels required for varying workload scenarios...Employees are more engaged following the training which in turn provides a sense of job security while building their confidence in skills they may not have otherwise felt comfortable performing."

"This training has improved the skills of those working in production which results in increased productivity and efficiency."

"Our training positively impacted the team members being trained as they recognize the company is making an investment in their development and helping them gain skills that they can use throughout their career. The leadership training has helped our leaders improve communication throughout the facility resulting in improved morale while also showing our senior leadership team areas that still need improvement."

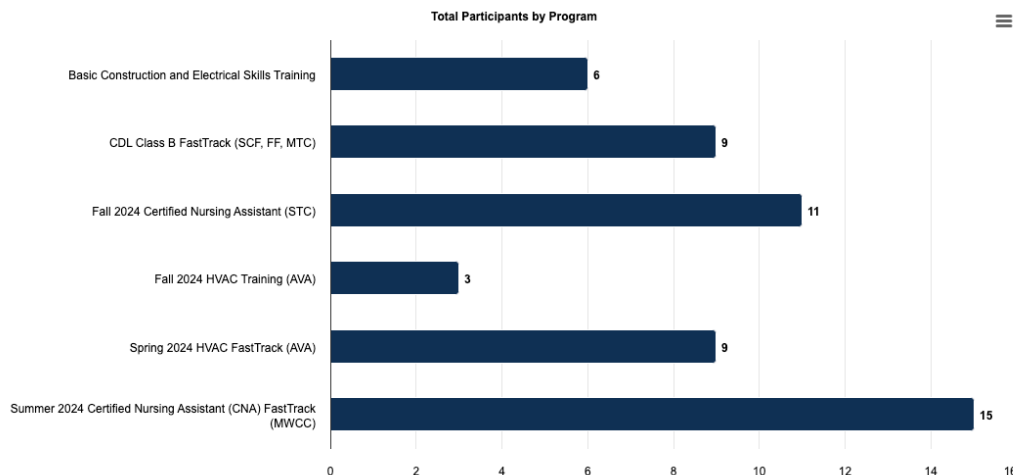
## Bridges to Careers

### Program Description

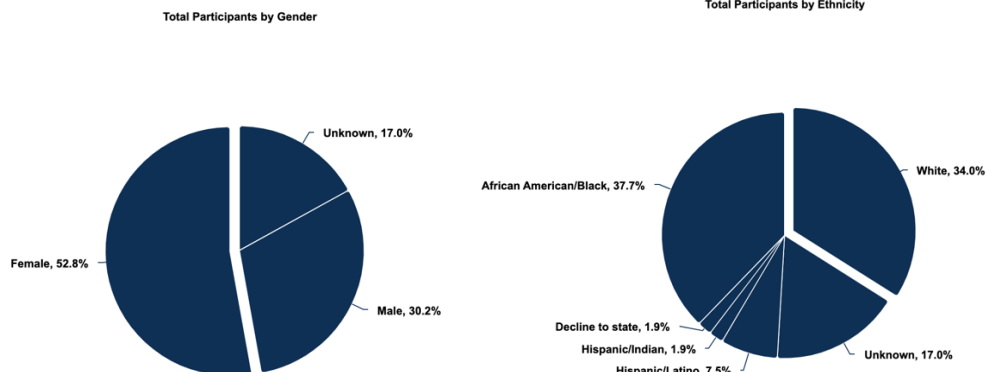
Bridges to Careers is a program designed to enhance the skills and earning capacity of our community members by providing necessary training and credentialing to enter the workforce successfully. Training may take place using a “FastTrack” approach, upskilling the participants in a compressed timeframe while preparing them to meet the skills employers need in today’s job market.

### Population Served

The Bridges to Careers program provided training to 53 unduplicated trainees in 2024 across six training programs. The Bridges to Careers program collaborated with State College of Florida (SCF), FleetForce (FF), Manatee Technical College (MTC), Suncoast Technical College (STC), American Vocational Academy (AVA), and Meridian West Central College (MWCC), listed with each program below.



Over 50% of participants were female and over 47% were non-white/BIPOC.

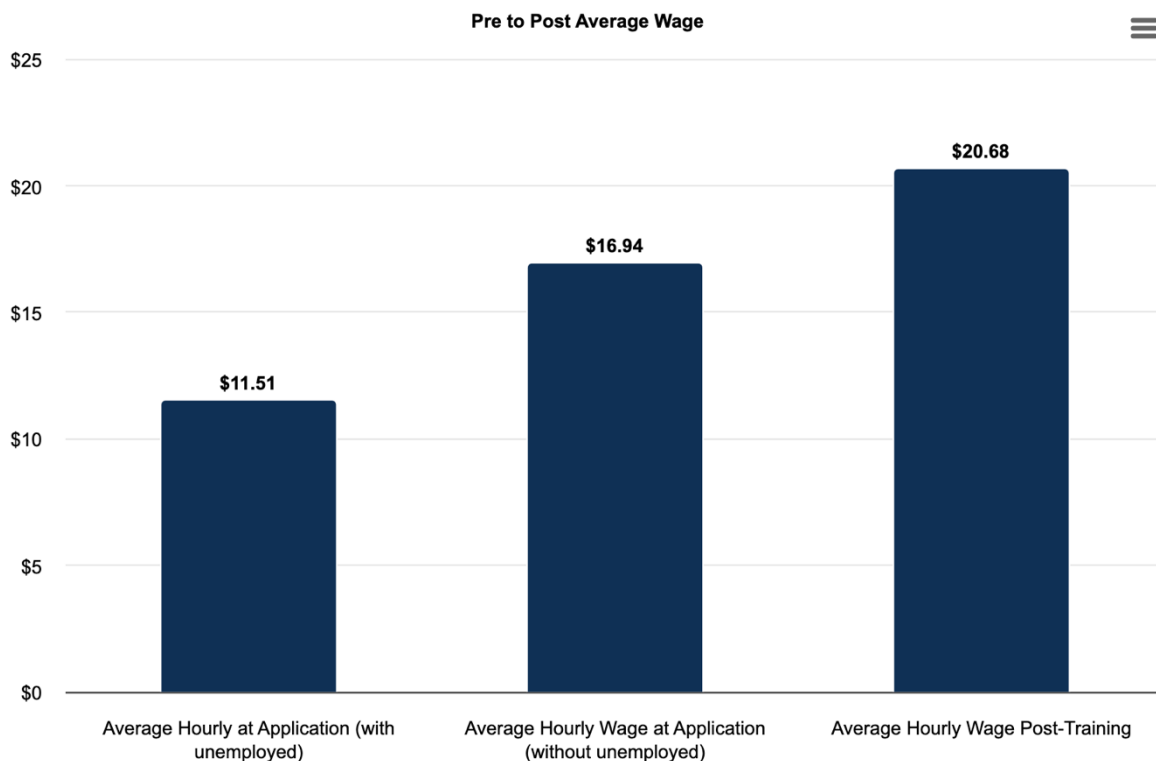


Sixteen (30%) of the total participants were unemployed prior to starting the program, with one additional trainee self-employed (i.e. received no income from employment).

The average wage at application, including those who were unemployed, was \$11.51 per hour. The average wage for those who were employed at application was \$16.94 per hour.

## Outcomes

Of the 53 total participants, 45 participants (85%) completed training. Of the training completers, 27 provided post-training outcome information. In 26 of the 27 cases (93%), participants were employed post-training and 21 participants (78%) reported a wage increase post-training. The average increase in wages, inclusive of unemployed participants, is \$9.17 per hour. The average wage increase exclusive of unemployed participants is \$3.74.



## Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training

### Program Description

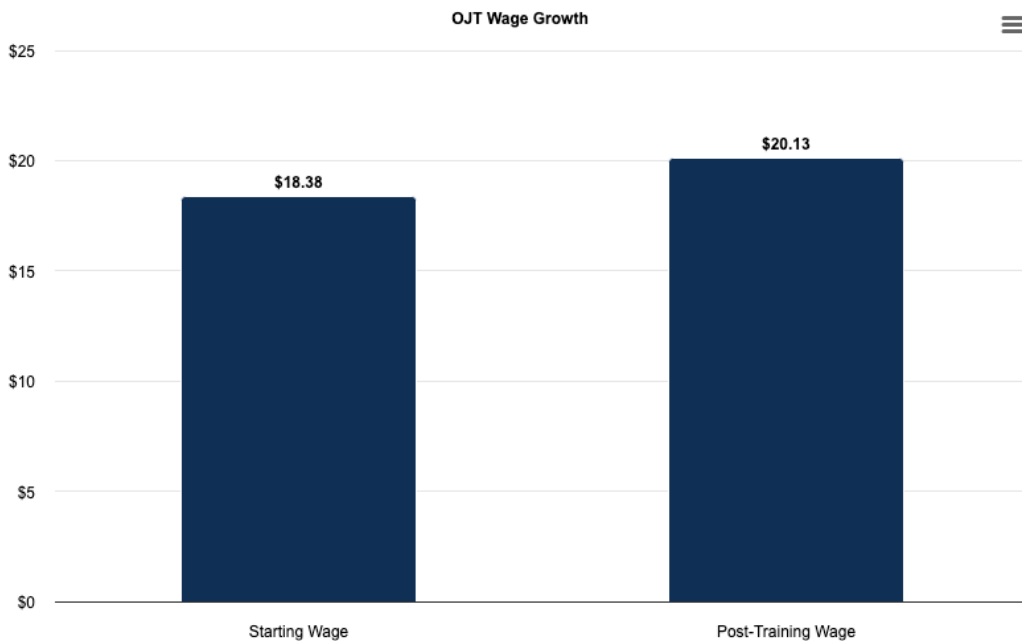
On-the-job training (OJT) is a hands-on method of teaching workers the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to perform a specific job. CareerEdge's funding reduces the expense of upskilling employees through salary reimbursement during the training period. Employees earn a paycheck while learning in the actual environment where the work is performed, while employers are reimbursed a portion of the employee's salary.

### Population Served

OJT training resumed in 2024 after a lapse in 2023. The CareerEdge OJT Training program supported four trainees across two employers that are both members of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. All trainees (100%) were male and between the ages of 18-25. One trainee (25%) was Hispanic/Latino.

### Outcomes

Of the four OJT trainees, the average wage increased by \$1.75 from \$18.38 to \$20.13. Three trainees (75%) received a promotion with a raise increase. The average wage increase for these trainees was \$2.33. The three trainees who received a promotion moved from an apprentice to technician position.



## **Employer Feedback**

In general, employer feedback centered on the OJT trainees ability to work more independently following training and their increase in technical skills. Additionally, employers described the training program as valuable and an asset to their organization.

“Extremely valuable because new techs are very tough to find.”

“[Trainee] is an asset to [Employer] and is now our number one choice as a helper for our more complex service jobs. He has gained confidence over the last couple of months that has helped him to thrive and continue to learn new concepts everyday.”

## Suncoast Technical College - Tiny Home 2.0

### Program Description

CareerEdge is a sponsor of the Suncoast Technical College Tiny Home 2.0 project, which allows Sarasota students to apply hands on construction skills. Students collaborate to construct a tiny house, providing them with comprehensive construction experience across various trades including building, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and drafting. Once completed, the tiny house construction serves as an educational tool, being showcased at job fairs, schools, and parades.

### Population Served

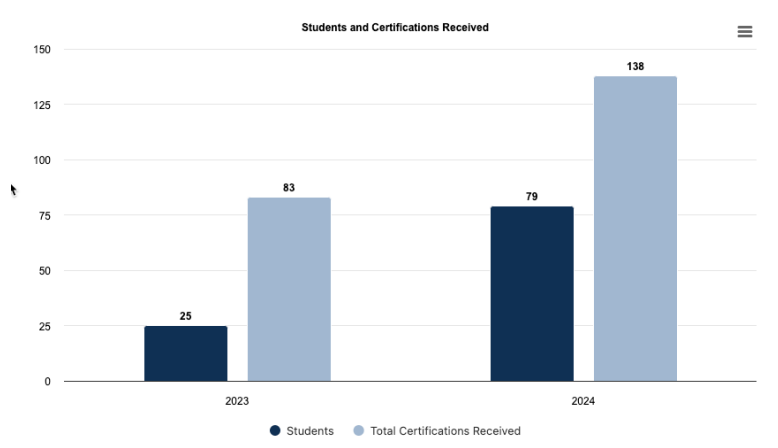
The CareerEdge STC Tiny Homes supported 79 trainees in 2024 and 25 trainees in 2023. In 2024, female participants represent 10% of trainees and non-white/BIPOC represent 28% of trainees. In 2023, Ninety-two percent of the participants are Male and 40% are non-white/BIPOC.

### Outcomes

The Tiny Home outcome data is reported in two-year cycles. Of the 25 participants in 2023, 11 (44%) completed training in either 2023 or 2024. Of those who completed training, 10 students (91%) reported employment in the construction design technology industry.

Participants in the 2023 STC Tiny Home project earned 71 certifications in 2023 and an additional 12 certifications in 2024 for a total of 83 industry certifications.

The 2024 STC Tiny Home 2.0 project is set to be completed in 2025 at which point additional outcomes will be reported. In 2024, students have already received 138 certifications in construction design technology, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC.



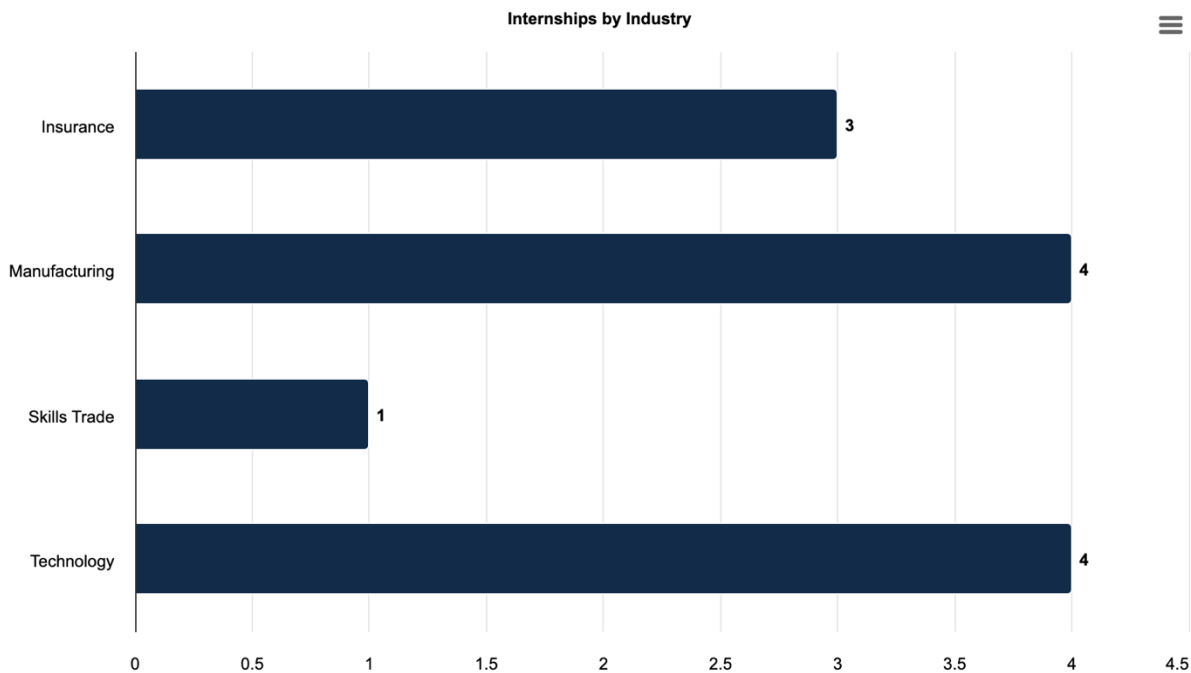
## Internship Wage Reimbursement

### Program Description

CareerEdge provides an internship employer wage reimbursement program that benefits both employers and interns. Employers can receive up to \$1,500 per intern for a maximum of two interns per calendar year. This program helps interns gain essential skills needed for success in the modern workplace. For students, internships offer extra income while they are in college or university. Additionally, the wage reimbursement program offers financial incentives for local employers to utilize interns to fulfill their workforce requirements.

### Population Served

The CareerEdge Internship Reimbursement program supported 12 interns in 2024. One-third of interns (33%) were in the manufacturing industry and another third (33%) in the technology industry. Interns also participated in the insurance (25%) and skills trade industries (8%).



All 12 interns (100%) were male in 2024 and 1 intern (8%) were non-white/BIPOC.

## Outcomes

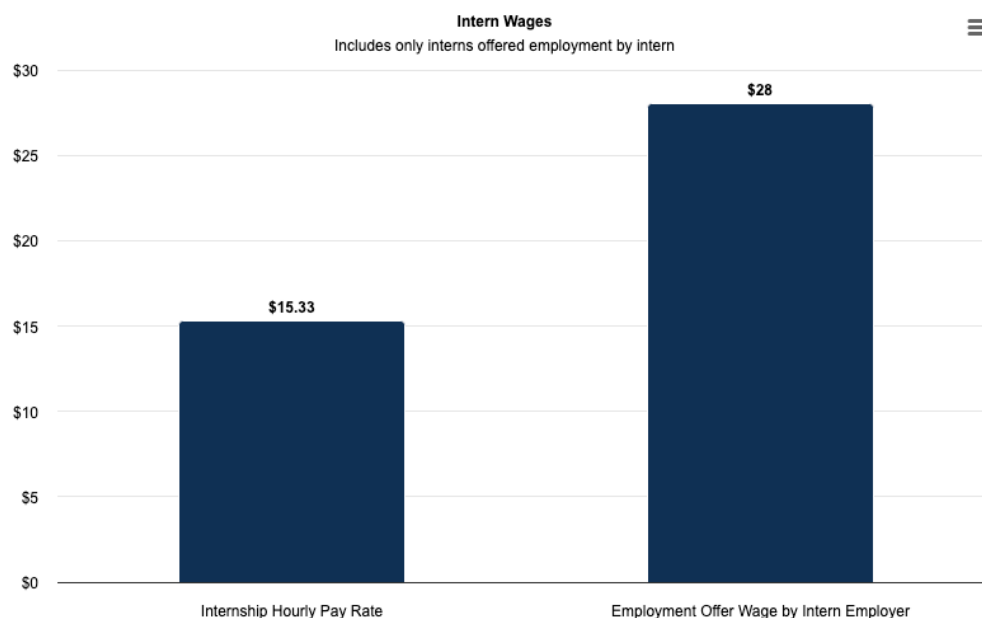
On average, interns worked 28 hours per week at an average wage of \$16.79 per hour. The hourly wage range for interns was \$13.00 to \$20.00 per hour.

Of the 12 interns, 6 employers (50%) planned to hire the intern post-internship for full-time employment with an average wage of \$28.00.

|   | Type      | Intern Wage | Post Wage | Increase (\$) | Increase (%) |
|---|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | Full-Time | \$20.00     | \$48.00   | \$28.00       | 104%         |
| 2 | Full-Time | \$15.00     | \$28.00   | \$13.00       | 87%          |
| 3 | Full-Time | \$15.00     | \$28.00   | \$13.00       | 87%          |
| 4 | Full-Time | \$13.00     | \$24.00   | \$11.00       | 85%          |
| 5 | Full-Time | \$13.00     | \$24.00   | \$11.00       | 85%          |
| 6 | Full-Time | \$16.00     | \$16.00   | \$00.00       | -            |

The pay increases offered to the interns demonstrates the value of the intern to the employers. Employers are offering on average a 75% pay increase from internship wages to post-internship wages.

Of the six interns who were offered employment by their intern employer, the average wage increase rose by \$12.67.



Most interns planned to continue their education post-internship. The number planning to work with their internship employer increased from 17% (3 of 18 interns) in 2023 to 45% (5 of 11 interns) in 2024.

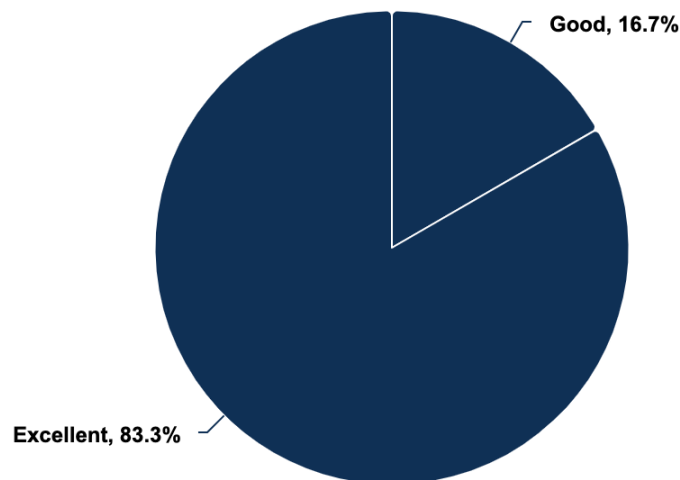
| <b>Post-Internship Plan</b>                          | <b>Number</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--|---------------|----------|
| Continue Education                                   | 5             | 42%      |
| Work with Internship Employer                        | 4             | 33%      |
| Work with Internship Employer and Continue Education | 2             | 17%      |
| Continue Education and Look for Job                  | 1             | 8%       |

## Intern Feedback

### *Positive Experiences*

All 12 interns agreed that the internship experience prepared them for the workforce. Over 83% of interns rated their internship experience as “Excellent”.

**Intern Feedback**



## *Workforce Preparation Qualitative Experiences*

The following quotes provide representative intern feedback regarding workforce preparation. The feedback reflects the various aspects of the internship program including hands-on learning, skill development, and professional and career development.

### Hands on Experience

"Trained with experienced network engineers and system administrators to obtain hands-on IT experience and work for a managed service provider to provide IT, networking, system, and cloud services to end-users."

"Very educational, there are things in the field you learn better hands-on that can't be taught inside a classroom."

### Skill Development

"At [employer], I learned very valuable networking skills, client communication skills, and troubleshooting techniques."

"From start to finish I was taught everything I needed to know to be self-sufficient with helping clients."

"The internship opportunity from [employer] was extremely valuable to understanding the insurance industry, specifically the brokerage side. I was presented with the opportunity to explore the different services we provide and understand the different markets we have access to."

"Internship experience allowed me to learn about the manufacturing industry and understand how a Quality Department operates."

"I enjoyed my time at [employer]. The workplace was very welcoming. The engineering department was always eager to answer any questions that I had. This internship allowed me to get more experience in 3D modeling as well as design applications."

### Professional Development

"This internship experience at [employer] has exposed me to a variety of both projects and people."

"Through this internship, I learned how to create value for myself and how to work with different teams to successfully manage new and old accounts."

"The various projects I was able to work on have given me a little bit of insight into the many different teams that are present within [employer] and what each of their roles are."

### *Areas of Improvement*

When asked directly how the internship program could be improved, many interns re-iterated that the program was beneficial and that they had little to no feedback. The remainder of the ideas for improvement centered on expanding the program in some way, for example with more work, a longer term, additional learning experiences, or working with other interns.

"I thoroughly enjoyed my experience as a intern and would ask that they only keep doing what they are currently doing for interns."

"Possibly cleaning up the first week by allow[ing] access to all the necessary resources to be prepared. Therefore, rather than using the first two or three days to get set up within the company, you can immediately begin working on a project."

"Potentially working on bigger projects."

### **Employer Feedback**

All intern employers who provided feedback indicated that the internship reimbursement program added value to their organization.

The employer comments largely focus on the positive impacts of the internship program such as providing a pool of potential talent, infusing fresh perspectives, and fostering an energetic workplace. The comments also underline the significance of financial support for the program's success.

"It gives us a chance to provide mentorship to young folks while in their senior year of college. At the same time we benefit by having a steady stream of new employees each year."

"This program has greatly provided us value to our organization! We [receive] an immense amount of interest in our internship program, this program specifically allowed us to have two interns at the Sarasota office this summer rather than one."

"It allows us to provide college students some great work experience and professional development that cannot be taught in a classroom setting."

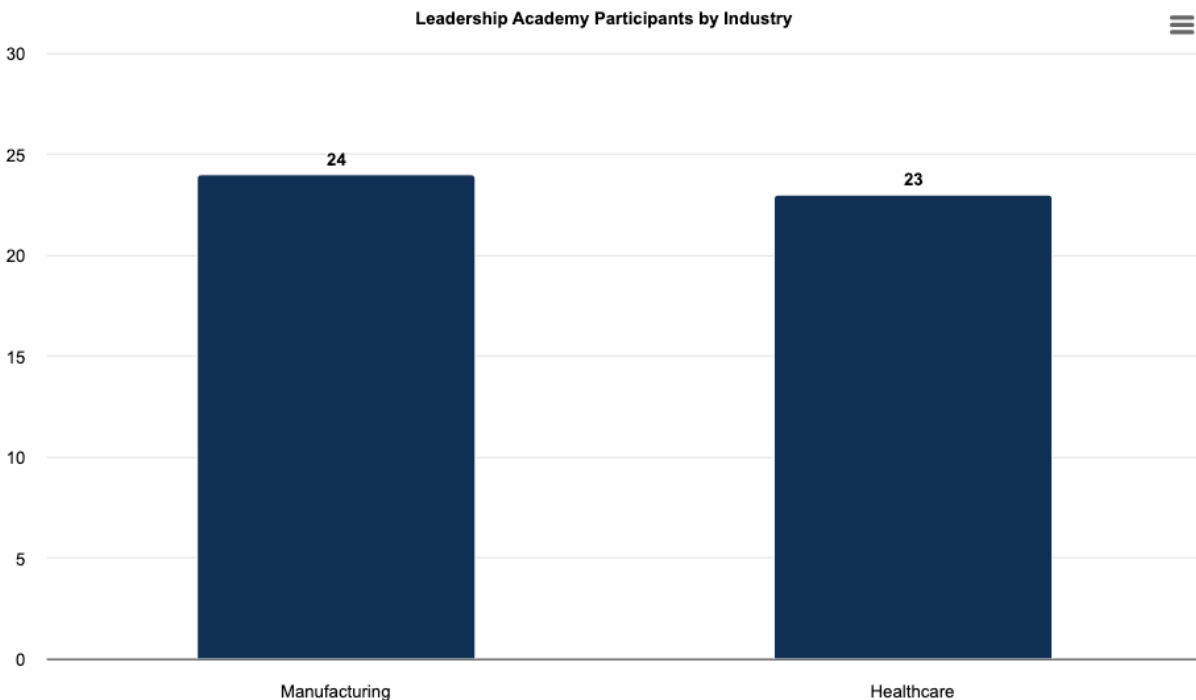
## Leadership Academy

### Program Description

The Leadership Training continued in 2024 with industry-specific courses. Each course included three interactive training sessions designed to help industry leaders grow their talent from within. The sessions included information about leadership styles, fundamentals of leadership, emotional intelligence, and communication styles. The training also guided practical skill development in coaching, motivating and inspiring, effective team meetings, and communication.

### Population Served

CareerEdge Leadership Academy provided training sessions designed for the healthcare and manufacturing industry leaders. The leadership sessions reached 47 leaders across 16 different organizations in the healthcare and manufacturing industries.



### Participant Feedback

Leadership academy participants were asked to complete a satisfaction survey after attending the course. Overall, respondents rated the course an average of 4.76 on a scale from 1 to 5, which indicates a high level of satisfaction among participants.

## Qualitative Responses

When asked to provide feedback on what they enjoyed most from the training, participants highlighted the interactive and collaborative learning environment and the practical leadership skills.

"Being able to meet as groups and get to know each other a little better! This week was SUPER interactive and I loved it."

"The interaction between everyone that was present including Jaime's. It was nice to see other perspectives and how other companies view leadership."

"Learning to be a transformational leader and coach."

Participants highlighted in their feedback the value of the insights gained from the training, such as:

"Ask even better questions to get even better answers to help me connect better with my team."

"How to speak to over teammates using different words to get them to feel as they are participating instead of telling them what to do. This will create a healthy environment."

"Learning to understand myself as a leader, and seeing the changes that have to be made to become an even better leader, both at work and home!"

"That at my age I can still learn and grow as a leader."

"Working with other personalities was big for me."

"Be curious, not furious. To be a coach, not a manager. Leadership is about relationships."

"1% can make the difference between good and excellent. It takes no more than 3 to 5 minutes to apply what we learned in training to our workplace."

## **Key Highlights**

### **Chamber of Commerce Recognition**

In 2024, Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce was honored to receive recognition by as one of the top 3 chambers in the nation by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) as well as the Florida Chamber of the Year by the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals (FACP).

Recognition from the ACCE and FACP underscores the significant contributions of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce in driving economic growth and supporting the community's development.

### **Top 3 Chamber in the Nation**

The ACCE groups applicants into four categories based on annual revenue, membership, community size, number of businesses in the region, staff capacity, and other factors. Applications are then rigorously scored by peer chamber executives to determine the finalists.

One of the key initiatives that contributed to the Sarasota Chamber's top-three recognition is the CareerEdge program. This program was specifically designed to address the skills and wage gaps in the Greater Sarasota region. CareerEdge works on both the supply and demand sides of the labor market and collaborates with intermediary organizations, including higher education institutions, to build a pipeline of skilled labor necessary for the region's employers.

"Earning the distinction as a Top 3 Finalist for all of the United States and Canada is a first for our Chamber, and we were the only Chamber in the state of Florida to be a finalist this year."

- Heather Kasten, President/CEO Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

### **Florida Chamber of the Year**

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce has also been recognized as the 2024 Florida Chamber of the Year in the \$1 million plus budget category. This prestigious award celebrates the Chamber's exceptional leadership, innovative programming, and positive impact on the local business community. The recognition highlights the Chamber's commitment to fostering economic growth and delivering outstanding services to its members.

## **Staff Promotions**

The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce has made two strategic promotions to its key staff.

Kevin Golumbeck has been promoted to director of CareerEdge. He will help lead the Chamber's workforce development initiatives, expanding CareerEdge's impact on the local workforce through targeted training and upskilling programs.

Hayley Nau has been promoted to Strategic Brand Manager. As part of her new role, she will oversee and strengthen the Chamber's brand strategy, focusing on broadening its presence and community engagement.

"We are so proud to elevate these individuals for their dedication and passion around the mission of serving our member businesses and the Sarasota community as a whole," said Sarasota Chamber President and CEO Heather Kasten in a news release.

## **Evaluation Updates**

During the 2024 evaluation process, the evaluation team identified a need to expand data collection and analysis to better assess the impact of each workforce development program. Measures of success vary significantly depending on the program's primary goals. Some programs are designed to drive immediate wage increases, while others focus on enhancing skills, job stability, and long-term career prospects. The internship program is unique, as it serves participants with differing objectives—some prioritize career experience and skill-building, while others seek direct wage benefits. Given these distinctions, future evaluations will be refined to capture the most relevant key performance indicators (KPIs) for each program type.

Additionally, the evaluation team recognized the importance of analyzing program outcomes based on participants' starting wage levels. The experiences and benefits of workforce development initiatives may differ between lower-wage and higher-wage earners, influencing their career trajectories in distinct ways. To ensure a comprehensive assessment, future evaluations will incorporate a comparative analysis of these wage groups.

## **Funders Collaborative Recognition**

We would like to thank and recognize the Funders for their generous and continuous support. Funders in 2024 include Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Sarasota County Government, Bank of America, Eppard Family Foundation, Florida Blue Foundation, Regions Bank Foundation and Truist Foundation.

## **Methodology**

The CareerEdge Funders Collaborative 2024 Evaluation Report was created by Katie Brown at Elevate Data.

All raw data was either entered directly into the CareerEdge participant and grant management database by the worker/trainee or the employer. Employer grant reports were provided to Elevate Data by CareerEdge.

Elevate Data conducted quantitative and qualitative analysis of the raw data and summarized the key points in the 2024 Evaluation Report.

The RIMS-II model was used to estimate Type II direct economic impact of increased wages and jobs.

### **RIMS-II Direct Effects Multiplier**

The RIMS II (Regional Input-Output Modeling System II) multiplier is a tool used by economists to estimate the economic impact of various activities within a specific region. Developed by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), this model captures the ripple effects that occur in the economy as a result of an initial expenditure or production change.

The RIMS II direct effect was used in this evaluation to estimate total economic impact of CareerEdge outcomes. The direct effect is the immediate economic impact of an initial expenditure or activity. These multipliers vary by region and sector, reflecting the unique economic structure and inter-industry relationships within a specific area.

For this evaluation, all effects were generated for the Sarasota, Florida and Manatee, Florida regions. The multipliers were generated for wages and for new positions created across the following categories: manufacturing, hospital/healthcare, construction, insurance and other (general).

The RIMS II multiplier is a powerful analytical tool that helps stakeholders understand the broader economic implications of various activities, enabling more informed decision-making in policy and business development.

## **Contact Information**

Questions/feedback regarding the CareerEdge Funders Collaborative 2024 Evaluation Report may be directed to Katie Brown at 651-504-4046 or [katie@elevatedataconsulting.com](mailto:katie@elevatedataconsulting.com).