

# At Home *with* CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion

BY LAURA BYRNES, APR, CPRC

This month marks our debut in *Pine Ridge Neighbors* magazine.

We may be new to the neighborhood, but we're not exactly the new kids in town. In fact, when it comes to workforce development, you could say we've been around the block a time or two.

We're CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and the Talent Center, an affiliate of CareerSource CLM in partnership with the College of Central Florida. We are a business-led, not-for-profit focused on connecting businesses with qualified, skilled job candidates and candidates with employment and career development opportunities through fee-free professional services.

We are positioned to provide customized services to meet the unique needs of local businesses and candidates because our board is predominantly made up of business leaders who know what those needs are. Leaders like Rachel Riley of Citrus



Memorial Hospital. She joined our board of directors in 2015, has chaired our career center committee and, on July 1, started serving a two-year term as our board chair. You likely also know Kevin Cunningham of RE/Max Realty One; he served as board chair from 2014-2016 and was instrumental in the creation of our workforce development region more than 20 years ago.

How can our services be "fee free"? As a proud partner of the American Job Center network, we are federally funded under the law. Additionally, we are very successful in obtaining competitive grants. That means there is no charge to businesses or candidates.

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**CareerSource**  
CITRUS | LEVY | MARION

**WHERE CONNECTIONS ARE MADE**

Talent Center at the College of Central Florida is a joint venture between CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and CF, your go-to sources for higher education and *hire* education. Talent Center connects Businesses with qualified, professional and highly-skilled candidates and professional-level Candidates and college students/graduates with employment and career-development opportunities. All at no charge.

**OPEN YEAR ROUND**  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**TALENT CENTER** |   
At the College of Central Florida

**HEAD TO TALENT CENTER** CF Ocala Campus Building 42, Suite 101 352.840.5762

Talent Center at the College of Central Florida is an affiliate of CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, an equal opportunity employer/program, and CF, an equal opportunity college. Auxiliary aids/services are available upon request to persons with disabilities and in Spanish. Phone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via Florida Relay at 711. For accommodations, please call 844-384-9859, ext. 7879 or email [traccommodations@talentcenter.org](mailto:traccommodations@talentcenter.org) at least 72 business hours in advance. CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is a proud partner of the American Job Center network and member of CareerSource Florida.

If you have an anxious child, walk her into the classroom on the first day of school, find her cubby and desk, and together, go say hi to the teacher. Find a friend or two sitting next to your child and introduce them to each other. Help your child get settled in by reading the morning message on the board or checking out the class schedule if posted. Assist her with beginning her morning work and tell her she's going to do great. Encouragement is key! And remember when praising your child to be specific. "Wow, Kate, I really love the way you colored the sky with different shades of blue," makes more of an impact to a child than just, "Great picture, Kate!" Be a powerhouse of positivity in your parenting role.

### *Carpe Diem!*

Before you know it, your little guy or gal will be all capped and gowned and graduating from the fifth grade, another huge milestone in their childhood. The elementary years are some of the best times you'll have with your children. Make them rock! Hug your little ones daily and encourage them. Tell them you love them and be present. Take time to explore, learn, laugh, and play with them because, before long, you will be sending them off to college! Carpe diem! Best wishes to you as you get your little ones back to school and learning every day!

Our financial incentives offer great options for businesses new to the area or interested in expanding in here. These include On-the-Job Training (OJT) grants, Paid Adult Internships and Work Experience Trainee programs designed to help employers turn good job candidates into great employees. We underwrite wages and other work-related expenses; you provide valuable training and work experience. This gives you a risk-free opportunity to "try before you buy." If you hire them in the end that's great, but it's not a prerequisite.

In terms of availability of skilled talent, we have thousands of local candidates registered with us, but we'll do what it takes to help businesses find the right employee even if they're not in that pool. We know that workers commute here for work from neighboring Marion County but also from Hernando, Pasco, Hillsborough and other counties. We can leverage the power of the CareerSource Florida network to draw in the workforce you need. You can also take advantage of our financial incentives to train employees your way, and we also work with candidates to enhance employability skills to ensure they're job ready for you.

Admittedly, that's just the briefest introduction of who we are and what we do. As your new neighbor, our welcome mat is always out and you're invited to drop by any time. Give us a call at 352-873-7955 or 800-746-9950 or visit [careersourceclm.com](http://careersourceclm.com).

*Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC, communications manager at CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, is Accredited in Public Relations, a Certified Public Relations Counselor and a Florida Certified Workforce Professional. She would love to hear from you and learn what kind of information you'd like to see each month. Please contact her at (352) 291-9559, (800) 434-5627, ext. 1234 or [lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com](mailto:lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com).*

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- Always available, 24/7/365
- Open up and close up before and after showings, assuring your peace of mind
- Feedback obtained on all showings, you will know what the buyer said
- Extensive expertise in contract preparation and negotiation
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- Online exposure on all major real estate portals including [coldwellbanker.com](http://coldwellbanker.com), [realtor.com](http://realtor.com), [Zillow.com](http://Zillow.com) and [trulia.com](http://trulia.com)
- Weekly statistical analysis providing comprehensive information on online activity
- Professional graphic artist prepared advertisement in *Country Club Neighbors* magazine covering Citrus Hills, Terra Vista, and Black Diamond. Advertisement in *Tampa Bay Times -Showcase of Homes* reaching over 1.7 million readers in the Tampa Bay area
- Professionally prepared marketing flyers

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