









SUBMITTED BY BY LAURA BYRNES, APR, CPRC









This month marks our debut in Southeast and Country Club Living 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 Kathy Judkins of SECO Energy. Kathy just completed her two-year term as our board chair. You may know her from when she served as United Way of Marion County's board chair or as board member of the Ocala/Marion

County Chamber & Economic Partnership. She also worked for us for 12 years as director of business service, so Kathy truly has a heart for our community and head for workforce development.

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.

Our financial incentives offer great options for businesses new to the area or interested in expanding in here. These include Onthe-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 Citrus County but also from Lake, Orange, Alachua, Duval 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 visit 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.



