



## Blessed with Two Great Reasons to be Thankful

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER LAURA BYRNES, APR, CPRC

This month we gather together with grateful hearts to celebrate Thanksgiving, something for which we are not alone.

Depending on your source, it appears that Thanksgiving, or a similarly named holiday, is celebrated in at least 10 other countries, of which at least four go full-on turkey.

But I can tell you two reasons we are especially thankful this year that no one else can claim: Carol Davidyock and Mark Vianello.

Both were recently honored by the Florida Workforce Development Association at the annual Workforce Professional Development Summit held in partnership with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, CareerSource Florida, and the Florida Department of Education, among others.

Carole, a career coach at our Ocala center, was recognized as the Workforce Professional Champion for our Marion, Citrus and Levy counties' region. Recipients of this award serve as teachers, role models and confidante



Carol Davidyock, CareerSource CLM career coach and the region's 2018 Workforce Professional Champion.

to their peers as we prepare the workforce of today for the economic structure of tomorrow.

Simply put, Carol is at the top of her game when it comes to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the governing legislation designed to strengthen and improve our workforce system. With her exacting case management and organizational skills, she's our WIOA go-to and has taken the lead in training new staff, conducting case monitoring and ensuring that the program continues to run smoothly in all three of our service counties. Carol also actively works with senior management in revising local policies, making continuous improvement suggestions and is also instrumental in the execution of our work-based training initiatives working closely with our Business Development team to provide On-the-Job Training, Employed Worker, Paid Work Experience and Internship opportunities for local businesses.

Mark, the executive director for Marion County Public Schools Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, was named the Florida Workforce Partner of the Year. Mark, who also serves on CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion's board of directors, was recognized for his long-standing efforts to launch programs in partnership with us and other organizations that support Marion County students' career and technical education while preparing them to enter the workforce.



(L-R) Joe Paterno, executive director of CareerSource Southwest Florida and emcee of the awards program, and Mark Vianello



Carol Davidyock, CareerSource CLM career coach and the region's 2018 Workforce Professional Champion, is pictured fourth from right along with other Champions. Also pictured (L-R) is Also pictured, Rod Duckworth, chancellor of Career and Adult Education for the Florida Department of Education; Taylor Hatch, director of Workforce Services for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; and Michelle Dennard, president and CEO of CareerSource Florida.

Some of those efforts include collaboration in the success of the annual Youth Career Expo and Senior/Youth Job Fair, implementation of a soft skills curriculum taught at all grade levels throughout Marion County's 31 public schools, support of a Duke Foundation-funded video series highlighting the district's Career Choice academies and programs, launch of a new Commercial Driver License (CDL) program at Marion Technical College, creation of new logistics programs at two high schools as well as a short-term Core Construction program at MTI.

Believe me, there's more, but I'll let Mark have the last word.

"Workforce development is a community problem that requires a community

solution and in Marion (County) we're successfully working together and moving forward because of true partnerships, collaboration and great synergy ... and the results are speaking for themselves."

And for that, we can all be very thankful, indeed.

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.

Dr. Heidi Maier, MCPS superintendent who attended the awards program, said that "Mark's passion for learning is only surpassed by his passion for our students. His background and dedication to our students is what fuels him every day. Pair that with a workforce-hungry community and you get successful students and amazing corporate partnerships."

Our CEO Rusty Skinner noted that in responding to the needs of the business community, Mark has been pivotal in a number of "talent pipeline" programs that prepare students to enter the workforce with great skills.

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