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Workforce resiliency promoted with free job training and industry certification

By Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC Communications Manager CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion Published Aug. 5, 2020 at 6:10 p.m.

OCALA – CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is offering free access to Metrix Learning, a dynamic online training platform to help anyone improve their employment skills.

The online learning initiative, called "Skillup Citrus Levy Marion," features more than 5,000 courses that can be accessed 24/7 by anyone with high-speed Internet.

"We're pleased to be able to help the citizens of Citrus, Levy and Marion counties improve workforce skills at a time and place that is convenient to them," said Rusty Skinner, CEO of CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion.

Skinner said that area community organizations are invited to partner with CareerSource CLM to access the Metrix Learning system to benefit those they serve. There is no charge for the service.

Since the effects of the pandemic began to be felt in the region, the number of workers who lost their jobs skyrocketed to near record highs, hitting 12.9 percent in April, up from 3.9 percent just two months earlier.

"This free training is an ideal opportunity for anyone and everyone in our region, regardless of whether they lost their job due to COVID-19," said Kim Baxley, vice president for Safety and Human Resources for the Central Florida Electric Cooperative and CareerSource CLM's board chair.

Baxley said the training platform is "flexible and helpful to job seekers and workers looking to improve skills, earn industry certificates, launch into new careers, or promote into new career opportunities."

Skillup Citrus Levy Marion allows participants to learn at self-pace, receive clear training milestones, and achieve industry certificates upon completion through customized badges. The online courses lead to more than 180 in-demand industry certificates, and offer coursework in everything from soft skills to project management.

For guidance and fee-free re-employment assistance, CareerSource CLM career coaches are also available to assess job seekers' interests and skills gaps and work with them one-on-one to create individual Training Plans aligned with their targeted career pathway.

CareerSource CLM's services are accessible by phone, email, Live Chat and video conferencing. Job seekers may also meet with staff, by appointment only, at any of the region's career centers in Ocala, Lecanto or Chiefland.

The Skillup portal can be reached at <u>http://citruslevymarion.skillupamerica.org/</u>. For more information, call 1-800-434-JOBS or visit <u>https://careersourceclm.com/</u>.

Community human services agencies interested in becoming a Skillup partner s¹ 'd contact Dale French, CareerSource CLM's director of operations, at 352-873-

xt. 2204 or email <u>dfrench@careersourceclm.com</u>.



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