

# This Valentine's, CareerSource Delivers Job Services You're Going to Love

By Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC, Communications Manager, CareerSource CLM



In the interest of full disclosure, I am writing this for February in the glow of a Christmas tree. Literally, 'tis the season still, with New Year's yet to happen.

While hearts and flowers feel miles away, I was struck by a memory of celebrating Valentine's Day in elementary school, making large envelopes out of construction paper or decorating shoebox "mailboxes," then going around to each desk in the classroom handing out cards and hoping for a treasure trove in return (and plenty of candy hearts).

While I can't promise candy hearts, I can deliver some items this month that I think you're going to really like.

First up is something I don't think enough people know about or take advantage of, yet it can improve employability skills to help land a new job or advance on the career ladder. And it is free.

F R E E as in no charge.

SkillUp Citrus Levy Marion is a dynamic online job training platform that can be used anytime, anywhere by anyone in our three-county region. You can work at your own pace and get to take as many courses as you'd like - and there are more than 6,000 to choose from - for up to six months. To dip your toe in the waters, there's even a curriculum with courses broken out in one-hour chunks and even 30-minute.

SkillUp is ideal for anyone interested in closing skill gaps and boosting job prospects. Fortune 500 companies use this world-class online training to train their own staffs. So, what have you got to lose? It is free, convenient, and can lead to your own greater good. That's better than chocolates and flowers any day. To learn more and sign up, visit [citruslevymarion.skillupamerica.org](http://citruslevymarion.skillupamerica.org) or call us a 1-800-434-JOBS (5627).

Next up, as promised last month, I'd like to introduce you to Dale French, our new executive vice president.

Dale is certainly not new to the workforce mission or CareerSource CLM. He has logged 17 years working in and managing the many projects, programs, and grants delivered by CSCLM. In 2011, he became director of program

development and was named director of operations in 2019, responsible for overseeing our career centers and associated programs, and has led efforts to secure more than \$4 million in competitive grants for our region. As executive vice president, Dale oversees operations, administration, and support for various departments, including IT, Finance, and Human Resources, and I am happy to say Communications.



Dale addressing the Citrus County Phoenix Rising graduates in June 2019 at WTC.

Two other upcoming items I want to mention. Once again, we're collaborating with the Citrus County School District and other community partners to put on a Youth Career Expo. When this was written, it was scheduled to

take place this spring, and it looks like it will probably be a virtual event. We're also planning to hold another State of the Workforce conference, which may also likely be virtual and set for April 22.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the availability of free, staff-assisted services - including one-on-one career counseling, assessments and resume, job search/referral, and interview assistance - are available at all our career centers. We also have a variety of workshops, hiring events, and other services and resources available at no charge.

Subject to change, our career centers are open to the public on weekdays from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Citrus County Career Center is located at 683 S. Adolph Point in Lecanto.

While appointments are not currently required, they are recommended for anyone planning an in-person visit to our centers. Also, all public health safety precautions are strictly followed, including the use of proper face coverings by customers and staff.

Virtual services are also available by phone, Live Chat, and email Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To learn more, please call 352-249-3278 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. Please contact her at (352) 291-9559, (800) 434-5627, ext. 1234 or [lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com](mailto:lbyrnes@careersourceclm.com).



Dale French, our new executive vice president.

# Kitty of the Year, 2020 Announced: April Dawson wins unprecedented twelfth crown

Submitted by Jerry and Sue Dawson

Citrus Hills, Florida Sue and Jerry Dawson are pleased to announce that their cat, April, has won the coveted Kitty of the Year Award for an unprecedented twelfth time.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the KOTY Award was still presented to this most deserving kitty. According to the judges, April's consistent good behavior during these trying times was what closed the deal for this national honor.


April spent some reflective time dining on Savory Salmon Flavor Temptations Cat Treats before the official announcement. She now plans on resting and basking in her incredible accomplishment.

When asked to comment, Sue and Jerry Dawson simply replied, "April is obviously in a whole new category of kitties, as none have ever even come close to winning the prestigious KOTY Award twelve times!"

Have an update, story, or pictures about your beloved pet? Email Amanda at [aclark@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:aclark@bestversionmedia.com) for it to appear in our pet corner.







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