

For Immediate Release

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CENTRAL FLORIDA ACCEPTED INTO NATIONAL TECHHIRE INITIATIVE

Central Florida Joins 18 Other Communities in Today's Announcement Dedicated to Building Inclusive Tech Ecosystems

Orlando (December 1st, 2016) - Central Florida has been announced as one of 19 TechHire communities dedicated to creating pathways for more Americans to access well-paying tech jobs and expanding local tech sectors in communities across the country. Central Florida will be joining a national network of 70 TechHire communities in receiving support to spearhead efforts to help overlooked and underrepresented Americans start technology careers.

“As Central Florida’s innovation-based economy continues to grow, a steady pipeline of highly skilled workers will be crucial to our sustained success,” said Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs. “Through partnerships with local universities, our public and private schools, and our exploding high-tech and digital sector, the Central Florida community is already at the forefront of STEM – and STEAM – training. The Tech Hire Grant award will boost the capabilities and capacity of CareerSource Central Florida, providing even more opportunity for local workers, students and businesses.”

Central Florida’s designation as a TechHire Community, with its access to modeling, simulation and advanced manufacturing, was only made possible due to the efforts of over a dozen community partners, including business collaborators CareerSource Central Florida, AT&T, Artemis, Saalex Information Technology, TerraCom Direct, the Florida High Tech Corridor Council; education collaborators Valencia College, University of Central Florida, Treehouse, Global Knowledge, Coastal Cloud, and Synergy Billing Academy; and support from our government partners, including Orange County Government and the City of Orlando.

“Accelerating Orlando’s reputation as an epicenter for technology while also advancing opportunities for our city’s young adults and minorities have been key priorities of our economic development strategy,” said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. “Orlando is honored to be named a TechHire city, a designation that will bring new and innovative training opportunities for our young and minority residents and accelerate connecting these individuals to well-paying, quality jobs.”

All TechHire communities go through an intensive and competitive application process to demonstrate their level of commitment and readiness in expanding the technology sector. This TechHire designation

shows that Central Florida has the partners, employers, training providers, and the civil leadership support needed to implement and scale tech job opportunities for everyone.

“CareerSource Central Florida is excited to take on this new initiative to grow technical businesses and impact Central Florida residents’ careers through training that provides greater career trajectory and earning potential,” said CareerSource Central Florida President/CEO Pamela Nabors.

“We are very pleased to welcome Central Florida to the TechHire Initiative,” said Tess Posner, Managing Director of TechHire at Opportunity@Work. “Central Florida has demonstrated a true commitment to making opportunities in tech more inclusive in your community, and we at Opportunity@Work look forward to working with you to help implement, grow, and amplify your efforts.”

All 19 communities joining the National TechHire Initiative in today’s announcement include:

- Alachua and Bradford Counties, FL
- Anchorage, AK
- Carroll County, MD
- Central Florida
- El Paso County, TX
- Bellevue, WA
- Boston, MA
- Howard County, MD
- Mobile, AL
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Omaha, NE
- Pensacola, FL
- Puerto Rico
- Santa Fe and Northern New Mexico
- Stamford, CT
- Tampa Bay Metro Region, FL
- Toledo, OH
- Trenton City, NJ
- Tulsa, OK

To learn more or join the TechHire Initiative, visit www.techhire.org.

[TechHire Factsheet](#)

ABOUT TECHHIRE

TechHire, an initiative powered by Opportunity@Work, is a nationwide, community-based movement that helps underrepresented job seekers start careers in the technology industry. TechHire partners with education providers from across the tech community to teach in-demand skills to people who want to take part in the modern economy—from overlooked youth, to veterans, to the long-term unemployed; and helps them find jobs by connecting them to a network of employers looking for tech talent. To learn more, visit www.techhire.org.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY@WORK



Opportunity@Work is a nonprofit social enterprise with a mission to expand access to career opportunities so that all Americans can work, learn, and earn to their full potential in a dynamic economy. By 2025, Opportunity@Work will empower over 1 million Americans, creating \$20 billion+ per year of additional earnings for Americans across the country. Opportunity@Work expands access to career opportunities for all by building partnerships with employers, community organizations, civic leadership and job seekers to transform hiring practices, expand learning pathways, and pioneer talent financing. To learn more, visit www.opportunityatwork.org.

ABOUT CAREERSOURCE CENTRAL FLORIDA

CareerSource Central Florida provides tools to businesses and career seekers in Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to advance their professional standing. On average, we assist 1,300 businesses each month with job posting and recruitment, retention and training. We also provide nearly 8,800 job seekers each month with services including career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, and internships. For more information, visit www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com.

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