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## **CSCF HIGHLIGHTS YOUTH ACTIVITIES DURING US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS' YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WEEK**

**Orlando, FL** – CareerSource Central Florida is partnering with the US Conference of Mayors' Workforce Development Committee to promote "Youth Development Week" the week of July 11- July 15, to raise awareness of the role local Regional Workforce Boards (RWBs) like CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) play in connecting youth to post-secondary education/training and career pathway employment. Throughout the week, CSCF will be posting articles and links on social media sites Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn relating to its year-round youth program and regional resources.

"Nationally, over 5 million young people ages 16 to 24 are both out of school and out of work - a statistic with dire economic and social consequences. Our youth workforce investments help prepare young people for post-secondary education and career-ladder employment," said Mimi Coenen, Chief Operating Office for CareerSource Central Florida.

As a member of the US Conference of Mayors, Orlando participates in the campaign through CareerSource Central Florida, one of 24 RWBs that comprise the CareerSource Florida network, and the regional workforce board that serves the businesses and career seekers of Sumter, Lake, Osceola, Seminole, and Orange counties.

The campaign showcases countless initiatives in cities and localities that convene industry, education, training, labor, community organizations, economic development and other agency partners to strengthen local businesses through local talent development. Through these invaluable partnerships, workforce boards across the nation create economic opportunity and affect economic vitality by promoting training, education, and jobs creation for businesses and career seekers at all stages of their career path.

Young career seekers play a critical role in the workforce; developing good habits and a strong work ethic early can pay dividends throughout their careers. That's why, in addition to its many partnerships with the school districts, technical schools, adult education programs, colleges, and universities throughout our region, CareerSource Central Florida has partnered with the City of Apopka on Apopka Youth Works.

CareerSource Central Florida recognizes that the youth of today are the workforce of tomorrow. As such, Apopka Youth Works is an eight-week program for 32 low-income or disadvantaged high-school juniors and seniors to receive essential occupational training, earn money and – just as important – get their first chance to work in a real-world businesses environment. The program is designed to provide valuable work experience to young career seekers and prepare a talent pipeline that will meet the needs of local businesses and support high-growth industries throughout the region.

Partnerships with the region's school districts and colleges also provide for CSCF to keep part-time staff located on several campuses in the region to assist with career counseling and resume and job search assistance.

"Youth who work are more likely to return to school, have a job in subsequent years, and earn more money over the course of their lives. They are also less likely to engage in crime and other high-risk behaviors," said Coenen.

CareerSource Central Florida operates six full-time Career Services Centers throughout the region, as well as two Mobile Career Services Centers, which bring services to businesses, community events and areas with limited access to the permanent centers. Services provided by CSCF include, but are not limited to, recruitment, including pre-screening of candidates, posting jobs in the state-wide jobs database, and hosting hiring events; employee training; on-the-job training; internships; employed worker training; continuing education assistance; GED training; and career counseling, including resume writing and interviewing techniques, among others.

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*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](http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com).*

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