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WCF TO AWARD 1,000 TRAINING GRANTS IN THE NEXT NINE MONTHS

Orlando, FL – Ryan Fernandez’s salary jumped 60 percent after completing a computer training program paid for by Workforce Central Florida.

The self-taught computer programmer had 13 years of experience in information technology and found himself at a crossroads when he was unemployed for seven months. Fernandez had worked on everything from tech support to managing IT departments but needed certifications to reach his career goals.

He applied to WCF for a training grant paid for through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Fernandez received \$2,500 to attend New Horizons, an Orlando school that offers training and certifications in the latest computer technology. The certification helped him land a network manager position with Channel Intelligence, a technology company owned by Google.

“The (WCF) scholarship gave me the training I needed to get to the next level of my career,” said Fernandez, 33. “The certification was a definite advantage in the job market.”

WCF is awarding approximately 1,000 students like Fernandez scholarships in training programs that range from nursing to aeronautics and digital media. Participants can choose from 348 unique programs at 32 approved colleges and technical schools. The grants range from \$1,500 to \$7,000, depending on the program.

Applicants must meet the WIA eligibility criteria, which can be found at: www.workforcecentralflorida.com/WIA. For questions about the program, go to: wiaquestions@wcfla.com.

Workforce Central Florida offers tools for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to find a job and advance in their careers. On average, WCF provides nearly 8,800 job seekers each month with services such as an online job bank, career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, career assessments and internships. WCF also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit www.workforcecentralflorida.com.