



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WCF PAYS BUSINESSES TO TRAIN EMPLOYEES WITH HIGH DOLLAR TRAINING NEEDS

Orlando, FL – WCF rewards businesses with financial incentives for training employees and improving our local workforce. The training ranges from basic to high-tech and employers are eligible for up to \$100,000 in reimbursements, if the company is training employees in an in-demand field.

Businesses can be compensated for up to half of the wages of new employees while they receive on-the-job training through the Employed Worker Training (EWT) program. The curriculum can be designed to fit each business' needs and the employer can choose the training provider.

The training benefits both employees and employers by:

- Providing employees with the latest skills
- Boosting employee morale
- Increasing employee retention and productivity
- Improving efficiency and a company's bottom line

“In today's constantly changing workplace, employees need to build and enhance their job skills to stay competitive,” said Pamela Nabors, president and CEO of WCF. “This program provides financial assistance to employers that recognize the importance of employee training.”

WCF has awarded 520 employers \$7 million for Employed Worker Training since the program started in 2003. The awards trained 2,300 employees at an average rate of \$3,043. The training dollars have been used for a wide range of occupations from energy raters at Green Solar Solutions to city and county paramedics and Montessori teachers. The awards are funded through the Workforce Investment Act.

Dura-Stress, a Leesburg company that manufactures concrete for buildings, bridges and utility poles, used the EWT awards to certify 10 employees in laboratory and field testing in 2012. The total training cost more than \$50,000 and WCF paid covered half the fees.

“Pre-stressed concrete is an engineered product that requires trained, certified personnel to ensure quality and meet strict industry requirements,” said Ken Kepley, CFO of Dura-Stress. “The training ensures that Dura-Stress is on the leading edge in using the highest quality products.”

Each employer is eligible for up to \$50,000 in EWT awards or \$100,000 if the organization is in one of the following targeted industries: manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, tourism, STEM or new and emerging industries such as sustainable energy, digital media, cyber security and biotechnology.

To qualify for the Employed Worker Training awards, employers must have at least two full-time employees and have been in business for a minimum of one year in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake or Sumter counties.

For more information, contact WCF Business Services at 407-531-1200 or go to:

www.workforcecentralflorida.com/employer/employer-services/employed-worker-training-awards/

Workforce Central Florida offers tools for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties to find a job and advance their careers. WCF provides nearly 27,500 job seekers with services such as an online job bank, career counseling, recruitment events, training, financial aid, career assessments and internships each month. WCF also assists an average of 1,120 employers monthly with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit www.workforcecentralflorida.com.