



MEDIA ALERT  
March 17, 2014

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### **INTERNSHIPS AND EDUCATION IMPROVE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

**Orlando, FL** – A national study says the current unemployment rate for teens is worse than the Great Depression and recommends subsidized job programs that include education and internships as a solution.

CareerSource Central Florida offers local youth both education and internships during a year-round program funded through the Workforce Investment Act. The youth program provides educational opportunities, job training skills and also work experiences that pays \$8.25 an hour for up to 30 hours of work during eight-week internships.

CareerSource Central Florida plans to enroll 1,000 youth ages 16-21 in the program during the next five months. Youths must live in Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake or Sumter counties and meet WIA qualifications to enroll. They will develop employment skills through on-the-job training opportunities. Participants can also receive a high school diploma, obtain a GED or earn industry-recognized certifications during the program.

“The Plummeting Labor Market Fortunes of Teens and Young Adults” released March 14th by the Brookings Institution points out that in 2000, 45 percent of teens (aged 16 to 19) were employed. By 2011, the last year covered by the study, that ratio had plummeted to 26 percent.

The study’s lead author, Andrew Sum, the head of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, claimed the numbers would be considered “a national emergency if it affected people older than 19.”

The 2012 unemployment rate for Florida youth ages 16-19 is 23.5 percent and 14.3 percent for those ages 20-24, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The overall rate for Florida youth ages 16-24 is 16.4 percent.

Unemployment is most severe among low-income teens—those who need the jobs the most, according to the report. Those youth are the ones targeted for help through CareerSource Central Florida’s youth program. The reports says that low-income youth are missing key education and employment experiences, which places them at increased risk of negative outcomes including long spells of unemployment, poverty, criminal behavior, substance abuse and incarceration.

The report offers several solutions, including internships that give high school and college students a taste of work; classes that teach young people the skills employers are demanding; and subsidized jobs programs.

For more information on CareerSource Central Florida’s youth program, go to:

[www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com/youth](http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com/youth).

CareerSource Central Florida offers tools to find jobs and advance careers for residents of Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter counties. On average, CSCF 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. CSCF also assists an average of 1,300 employers each month with recruitment, retention and training. For more information, visit [www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com](http://www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com).

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