

Education and Industry Consortium Meeting Notice

Dear Education Industry Consortium members,

We are excited to host our next Education Industry Consortium meeting, bringing our regional partners together for updates and continued conversations on strategies to strengthen our workforce. Thanks to your valuable insights and active participation in previous sessions, this group has grown into a dynamic space for collaboration and innovation.

This meeting will feature a presentation from Josh Wright, Executive Vice President of Growth at Lightcast, on the newly released *2025 Talent Attraction Scorecard*. The report ranks Florida as the nation's top state for talent attraction and insights at the latest trends shaping U.S. talent mobility, including the rise of remote work, tech hub diversification, and ongoing blue-collar worker shortages. These insights will provide valuable context as we continue the conversations shaping the future of our region.

Below you will find more details and the agenda we have prepared for this meeting.

Date: Friday, September 26th

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Program

- Labor market updates, Nilda Blanco, SVP Strategic Initiatives, CareerSource Central Florida
- 2025 Talent Attraction Scorecard, Josh Wright, Head of Growth, Lightcast and Matthew Walsh, Director of Research, Lightcast
- Q&A

Location: Virtual meeting

<https://careersourcecf.zoom.us/j/81290704241?pwd=tnXx7ZsDQebWLNCIculB2oqM6gn8qI.1>

Meeting ID: 812 9070 4241

Passcode: 364915

We look forward to seeing you at our next session.

Speaker Bios:

Matthew Walsh, Director of Research

Matthew specializes in projects related to workforce development, or how to create and connect people to good jobs that support individuals, families, and communities. Matthew embeds equity and job quality considerations into his work with regional development authorities, industry groups, educational institutions, public agencies, policymakers, and employers.

At Lightcast, Matthew has worked on a variety of inclusive development projects: regional initiatives that connect underemployed local workers to critical and high-paying occupations in strategic industries, investigations into local barriers to employment and the social conditions that disadvantage certain workers, and briefs on public policies and changes in employer behavior that would result in increased mobility out of entry-level jobs. Matthew has also worked with stakeholders in education to improve occupational credentialing and to align curricula with trends in job demand.

Prior to working at Lightcast, Matthew was a Fulbright Scholar in Argentina and a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. His research from the former was published by the academic journal *Desarrollo y Sociedad*. Matthew earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago.

Josh Wright, Head of Growth

Josh Wright leads partnerships, growth, and thought leadership for the public sector team at Lightcast, a leading labor market analytics firm. He previously served as Executive VP of the economic and workforce development division at Lightcast, where he led his team through the merger of Emsi and Burning Glass Technologies in 2021 and the acquisitions of Gazelle.ai and eIMPACT in 2023. Wright is a former journalist who started at Emsi in 2008. He graduated from the University of Idaho with bachelor's degrees in journalism and history.