

## Custom Virtual Partnership Training Initiative

Background: The West Bay Sector Plan is one of the largest mixed-use, planned communities in the United States. Located in Bay County Florida, the plan includes a new state-of-the-art international airport, probably the only new major US airport to be built within the next decade, , marinas, commercial, office and light industrial entitlements as well as residential properties; and of course, a 1,200 acre site for the airport and 3,000 acres for an industrial park that adjoins the airport site. The West Bay Sector also includes a 40,000-acre West Bay Preservation Area, a conservation area to permanently protect West Bay, including 33 miles of shoreline and an additional 44 miles of creeks and tributaries.

The WBS will offer unique opportunities for aviation related and other business operations who would benefit from being near a new state-of-the-art international airport designed for 24/7 operations with protected approaches. With a link to Panama City's deepwater port, we believe this airport has significant unique competitive advantages. Add to that the opportunities for both eco-tourism and research and development with the preservation area, and you have a truly interesting opportunity for luring a broad array of business and nature conservancy interests to the state.

Because the WBS has such a diverse array of opportunities, an MOU was initiated between Workforce Florida Inc, Gulf Coast Community College, Gulf Power Company and the St. Joe Company to join forces as a partnership committed to further develop the marketing and training model to be used for this unique economic development initiative. As the work of marketing the site has begun, a task force has evolved including the Bay County Economic Development Alliance, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, Florida's Great Northwest, and other related organizations. We are now looking for the right person to both develop and market a workforce training model and staff the functions of the MOU task force. Please see below the information related to this position, and the qualifications of the individual needed to fill this role.

Vision: The purpose of this initiative is to enable Northwest Florida to attract and grow tomorrow's businesses by establishing a globally competitive workforce training model that can be replicated throughout Florida to create a flexible and responsive method of providing and funding world class training to quickly respond to target industry and local business workforce needs.

Objective: Define how to provide and pay for state of the art, cost effective training to develop tomorrow's workforce skills today. Develop a program that is flexible enough to meet the business demands of today, yet can easily shift to the needs of tomorrow at a "best in class" level as new skills become necessary and new jobs become available. Training to cross all levels including: certificate, technical, associate, baccalaureate, masters and PhD. Training providers to cross all levels including: public, proprietary, specialty, technical, professional, community college, university, as well as

customized training within business locations. The initiative will be a collaboration of economic development, workforce development, business leaders, educators and training providers.

Scope of Work: A program manager or director will be hired to define the model; develop the relationships to put in place an effective and efficient prototype operating model; and identify funding opportunities.

- The manager or director will work with local and regional economic development professionals and business leaders to define the types of future jobs that will be necessary to support the region's target industries and match them to the skills required at all levels.
- Existing training programs will be identified and rated against standards established by business leaders.
- Gaps in training programs and skill sets will be identified.
- Existing programs will be evaluated against "best in class" programs provided by other institutions nationally and internationally.
- The "best in class" education programs for each target industry are to be identified and relationships established with leading instructors and institutions.
- Partnerships and joint training programs will be established with education institutions both inside and outside of the marketplace considered "best in class" to upgrade existing programs and create new ones as the need arises.
- Training delivery to incorporate the most flexible, effective and efficient manner for each skill set including: virtually through distance learning, in the classroom, on location within a business establishment, or through a combination of multiple delivery methods.
- Mutually beneficial partnership agreements, delivery methods and compensation plans to be pre-defined between training providers so programs can be quickly initiated when the training need is required.
- "Best in class" workforce development and training funding initiatives to be studied, defined and compared to Florida and local funding initiatives, including but not limited to Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia.
- The funding resources required to create a globally competitive training system to be defined and potential resources identified.
- Funding recommendations for long term sustainability to maintain an effective world class training system are to be developed.
- A database of workforce skill supply and demand information, including real time availability of existing worker skill levels for target industries is to be developed (or perfected) including a method of identifying workers interested in upgrading skills when job and training opportunities become available.

Reporting: The program manager or director will report to an independent board created to carry out the vision and mission of the initiative. The oversight board will be made up of representatives from economic development, workforce development, target industries, higher education, and training institutions. For payroll purposes, the program manager or director may be hired as an independent

contractor, or as an employee of one of the board member institutions or organizations on loan or under contract to meet the goals and objectives established by the board or committee.

Qualifications: A Bachelors degree and 5 years experience at the management level in developing and implementing business training programs, hiring technical or professional workers, initiating economic development or workforce training programs, or other related experience. Masters degree is a plus. Excellent verbal, written, computer and public speaking communications skills are required, as well as the ability to effectively collaborate with all stakeholders.

Salary: Commensurate with experience.

To Apply: To apply, please submit letter of interest, resume, and two professional references. Position is open until filled. EOE

Send resumes to:

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