

>> ASK THE EXPERT

Get more from your workforce

Florida's new workforce development tool is producing new talent, new job opportunities and double-digit reductions in hiring costs, training time and turnover for employers.



Florida Ready to Work courseware helped Ryan Leitter prepare for a career at TD Bank.

> Help Wanted? Get Ready to Work.

TD Bank is one of largest banks in the United States with 1,100 locations from Maine to Florida. When hiring a new teller for its Rockledge store in Brevard County, TD Bank set the bar high by putting the word out that it wanted applicants with a Gold Level Florida Ready to Work Credential.

Ryan Leitter – a student dually-enrolled at Cocoa Beach Junior/Senior High School in the Academy of International Business and at Brevard Community College in financial accounting and microeconomics – answered the call and landed the job.

“There is no question that Florida Ready to Work helped me get the job. The courseware prepared me for the real-life scenarios on the teller certification test, and my Credential showed TD Bank that ‘I can do this.’ The experience has been life changing,” says Leitter.

> Retraining Wanted? Get Ready to Work.

Karen Wilkerson, 31, worked as a heavy equipment operator. When she was laid off, Karen turned to WorkSource, the regional workforce board serving Florida's First Coast, for career counseling. With their help, Karen applied for the certified nursing assistant training program offered by Palatka Health Care Center, a 180-bed skilled nursing facility in Putnam County. Applicants are required to earn a minimum score of 3 on the core three Florida Ready to Work assessments. Karen earned a 5 in Applied Mathematics, 6 in Reading

for Information and 5 in Locating Information and was accepted into the training program.

Karen passed the state certification exam on the first try, has since completed an advanced training program and was promoted with expanded responsibilities and a pay raise, all within one year.

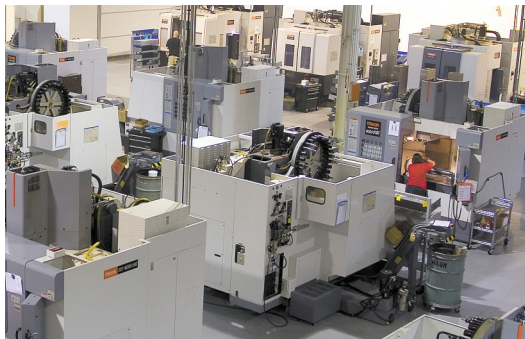
“I credit WorkSource and Florida Ready to Work with opening the door to new career possibilities and opportunities,” says Wilkerson.

> Promotion Wanted? Get Ready to Work.

Headquartered in Titusville, Knight Enterprises LLC is an American firearms and firearms parts manufacturer that is using Florida Ready to Work to develop a pool of employees who are poised for promotion.

Looking to learn more to earn more, employees across the workforce – administrative assistants, assemblers, machinists, accountants and engineers – are using the courseware to benchmark and develop their skills.

“To meet the talent requirements of our company, our state and our nation, the entire spectrum of education and workforce development must be aligned and engaged. Our company looks for employees with the core skills and initiative to grow within the company. Central to that objective are competency-based training programs, like Florida Ready to Work and the Employ Florida Banner Centers, that are aligned with industry certifications and credentials,” says Vice President and General Manager Arthur Hoelke, who also serves as the Advisory Council Chairman of the Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing.



Manufacturing firms like Knight Enterprises use Florida Ready to Work to ensure that their employees have the core skills and initiative to advance.

Florida Ready to Work provides online courseware in nine foundational skill areas identified by employers across industries as critical for job success. Proctored assessments validate mastery of skills. Those who complete the program earn the Florida Ready to Work Credential. State-funded, there is no cost to participate. To learn more, visit www.floridareadytowork.com or call 1-877-444-4505 prompt 1.