

# Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board Chairman's Report

January 2011

## Florida Ready to Work Program Works for Hernando County Public Schools

### Our Mission

... enhance economic development efforts of our region by providing a well-trained, high-quality workforce which supports the success of local business and improves the quality of life.

### Featured this Month

**Page 1:**  
Florida Ready to Work  
VITA Free Tax Prep

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A Job Well Done  
Career Central Cares

### Upcoming Events

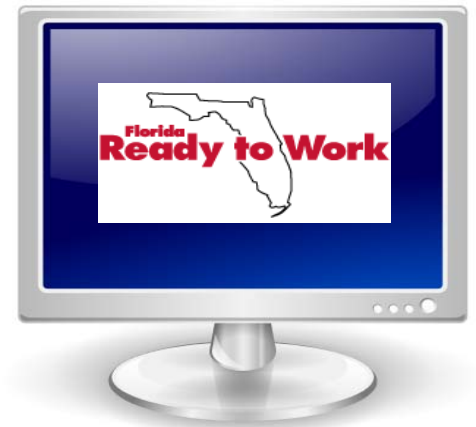
Career Central has many exciting events each month. From Professional Placement Network Meetings to Mobile One Stop deployments, there are activities to help benefit employers and job seekers alike.

Please visit our website at [www.careercentral.jobs](http://www.careercentral.jobs) for information on all upcoming events.

Florida Ready to Work is an employee credentialing program that quantifies the skills of jobseekers, giving them a competitive edge. Career Central has administered the Florida Ready to Work assessments for Hernando County Public Schools (HCPS) for the past two years.

The test was optional for non-instructional applicants, but HCPS recently made the program mandatory to non-instructional applicants. Job orders on both the HCPS and Employ Florida sites will include a requirement for the applicant to obtain a Florida Ready to Work credential prior to completing the application process. The program is sponsored by the state of Florida, so there is no cost for employers or jobseekers.

For more information on how the Florida Ready to Work program can work for you, please contact Michael Perchard, Career Central Assessment Coordinator, at [mperchard@careercentral.jobs](mailto:mperchard@careercentral.jobs) or call 352-249-6708.



### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

Career Central has partnered again with the I.R.S. Community Outreach and Education Program to offer no-cost tax preparation services to moderate income residents of our community.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is available to those who have a low to moderate income (generally \$50,000 or less) and have no rental property holdings or farm income. All tax returns are prepared by I.R.S. certified volunteers. This service is a substantial value considering commercial tax preparation can cost several hundred dollars, even for those filing simple returns.

The service is available Wednesdays and Fridays at the Spring Hill Career Central location from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. starting January 26, 2010 through April 15, 2010. Contact Career Central at 352-200-3020 for more information.

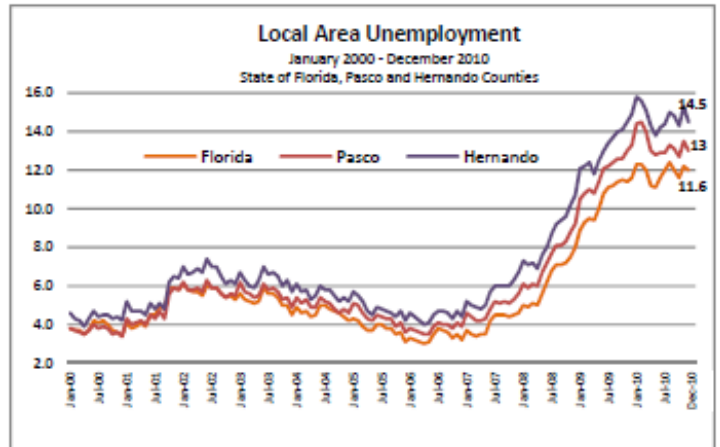


*Career Central is a service of the Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board.*

# Labor Market Information

## Unemployment Rates November and December 2010

Location	November 2010	December 2010
Hernando County	15.3%	14.5%
Pasco County	13.5%	13.0%
Tampa Metro	12.7%	12.0%
Florida	12.0%	12.0%



The table on the left compares the unemployment numbers for November 2010 to December 2010. Slight decreases in the unemployment numbers are shown in our region as well as in the Tampa metro area, while the unemployment rate for Florida overall remains unchanged. The graph on the right shows unemployment rates from January 2000 through December 2010 for Pasco and Hernando Counties, as well as for the state of Florida.

\*These statistics were obtained from Florida Agency For Workforce Innovation and are not seasonally adjusted.

## A Job Well Done

## Career Central Cares

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15293 Flight Path Drive • Brooksville, FL 34604 • 352-799-8211 • Fax: 352-754-9735  
Web: www.manzimetals.com

December 9, 2010

Career Central  
Ana Segovia,  
Business Services Consultant  
Pasco Hernando Jobs and Education Partnership Regional Board, Inc.  
4440 Grand Boulevard  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Dear Ana,

I want to thank Career Central and the Pasco Hernando Workforce Board for the opportunity to participate in the Employed Worker Training Program. Your program has been a wonderful asset to my company and for my employees. Your program's support and financial assistance has aided my employees to improve their skills and knowledge to be able to stay competitive in today's business market. By implementing this training program, my employees have become a more valuable asset to my company.

We truly appreciate the expertise of Career Central's staff for facilitating this program and for the financial assistance opportunity.

Regards,

Barbara Manzi  
President of Manzi Metals, Inc.

BM/cjs



Holiday gifts donated by the staff at Career Central's Spring Hill location.

During the month of December, Career Central staff showed how much they care for the people in the communities we serve.

Many Career Central employees, and the employee's of our partner agencies, participated in various charitable programs at each Career Central One Stop. These

activities were focused on to helping families in need within our region. Through donations of food, clothing, toys, and cash, our employees helped over 50 families, including homeless teens and victims of domestic violence, have a happy holiday season in 2010. Without the generous outpouring of support from the Career Central staff many of these children would not have had the joy of waking up Christmas morning to gifts or a home-cooked meal.

Thank you again to all the Career Central staff who helped make lives a little brighter throughout the year. There will be more opportunities in 2011 to give back to the community. So be on the lookout for more information about Career Central Cares and how you can help make a difference, or contact David Hamilton at [dhamilton@careercentral.jobs](mailto:dhamilton@careercentral.jobs) for details.