



SFWIB GLOBAL TALENT & COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE/TIME: February 19, 2026, 8:30AM

LOCATION: ARPEC School/UA Local 725 Pipefitters
 13201 NW 45th Avenue (Room 3)
 Opa Locka, FL 33054

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApcuCuqDoiHdfQcKwSUWUz1vGZliStRim>

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chairman Loynaz, in absence of Chairwoman Ferradaz, called to order the regular scheduled meeting of the SFWIB Global Talent and Competitiveness Council on February 19, 2026, at 8:42 am.

2. **ROLL CALL:** 8 members; 5 required; 5 present: Quorum

SFWIB GTCC MEMBERS PRESENT	SFWIB GTCC MEMBERS ABSENT	SFWIB STAFF
Brecheisen, Bruce Brown, Clarence (Zoom) Del Valle, Juan-Carlos Grice, Sonia Loynaz, Oscar M.D., Vice-Chair Palacios, Carol (Zoom)	SFWIB GTCC MEMBERS EXCUSED Ferradaz, Gilda, Chair Whitaker, David	Beasley, Rick Parson, Robert Smith, Robert Vice, Karlisha
OTHER ATTENDEES		
Mitchell, Carlana, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Mumford, Ronald, CareerSource South Florida (Zoom)		

Agenda items are displayed in the order they were discussed.

2. Public Comment

Public comments should be two minutes or less.

Vice-Chairman Loynaz opened the floor for comments from the public. No requests to speak were received by the Executive Office.



No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

3A. Global Talent and Competitiveness Council Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2025

Vice-Chairman Loynaz presented the December 18, 2025 Global Talent and Competitiveness Council Meeting minutes for consideration before entertaining a motion.

Motion: Mr. del Valle recommends approval of minutes from December 18, 2025, Global Talent and Competitiveness Council Meeting. Ms. Grice seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

4. Approval – Kendall Learning Academy Paid Work Experience Partnership

Vice-Chairman Loynaz recused himself from the discussion due to his association with Miami-Dade College. Mr. del Valle introduced the item, and Mr. Smith presented a partnership program aimed at providing paid work experience in data analytics for high-functioning autistic and neurodivergent individuals through Miami-Dade College's Kindle Learning Academy. Youth Co-Op, Inc. will receive the funding and serve as the program administrator.

Mr. Beasley further explained that the program will offer training in data analytics and Power BI, with participants earning college credit. Mayor Cava has agreed to provide job placements for individuals participating in the program through the Miami-Dade County IT department. This initiative marks the first time this population will be served, with 16 participants set to begin at a rate of \$20 per hour for 20 hours a week.

Mr. Brecheisen asked if this was the first time a program of this type had been introduced and expressed hope of expanding it to other major employers beyond the county if it proves successful. Mr. Beasley concurred with this sentiment and plans to use this program as an example to inspire similar initiatives among his colleagues at both state and national levels.

Motion: Mr. Brecheisen recommends approval to the board for an amount not to exceed \$102,400 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding for Paid Work Experience (PWE) to Youth Co-Op, West Dade Career Center for the Kendall Learning Academy Paid



Work Experience program. Ms. Grice seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

5. Approval – New Registered Apprenticeship Program – Construction Coordinator

Vice-Chairman Loynaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith presented a new registered apprenticeship program for construction coordinator positions in office management and administrative services.

Mr. Smith reminded the Council that all registered apprenticeship programs are automatically approved at state level, but local workforce board reviews to ensure compliance.

Motion: Mr. Brecheisen recommends approval to the board for approval of a new registered apprenticeship program with MCI Construction Apprenticeship Program. Mr. del Valle seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

6. Approval – Apprenticeship Employer Wage Reimbursement – MCI Construction

Vice-Chairman Loynaz introduced the agenda item, and Mr. Smith presented MCI Construction Apprenticeship Program for Office Manager/Administrative Services (Construction Coordinator). The program will include ten apprenticeships and following five participating employers:

- Atlantic Pacific Companies
- Best Air
- Ocean Coast Electrical
- Jasper Enterprises
- LCN Group Inc.

Mr. Beasley reminded the council that this program aims to expand apprenticeship initiatives in South Florida, aligning with national efforts from the Trump administration.



Motion: Mr. del Valle recommends approval to the board to allocate an amount not to exceed \$185,100 in Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds for on-the-job training reimbursements for MCI Construction. Mr. Brecheisen seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

7. Approval – South Dade Rural Workforce Innovation Allocation

Vice-Chairman Loynaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith presented a recommendation to allocate an amount not to exceed \$280,000 state general revenue for rural South Dade workforce development with flexible eligibility requirements.

The program aims to assist 100-125 rural residents and focuses on several key priorities: increasing economic mobility in underserved communities, strengthening employer-driven talent pipelines, expanding access to training and supportive services, and reducing barriers related to transportation, childcare, and digital access. Since this is state-funded, there are no income eligibility requirements.

Motion: Mr. del Valle recommends to approve the board to allocate an amount not to exceed \$280,000 in state-awarded funds to Youth Co-op, Inc. to serve South Dade rural participants and employers. Ms. Grice seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

There was ongoing discussion about the program's open-ended nature, specifically regarding digital access and the supportive services provided for 50% of participants.

To address concerns, Mr. Beasley clarified that expanding digital access includes subsidizing programs offered by providers such as Comcast and AT&T. Additionally, supportive services like bus passes, gas cards, and childcare are customized to meet individual needs. While the framework may seem flexible, CareerSource South Florida will strictly adhere to its on-the-job policy limitations and follow a support services matrix, with the state overseeing compliance.

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.



8. Approval – Apprenticeship Program On-the-Job Training Employer Reimbursement

Vice-Chairman Loynaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith presented the recommendation to allocate funding for Cristo Rey Miami High School's proprietary work-study program, which focuses on career readiness & occupational skills training within a structured work-based internship.

Mr. Beasley provided additional insight on the program advising that it is paid work experience for about 50 students who will be working with corporate sponsors one day per week.

Chairwoman Ferradaz and Mr. Brecheisen expressed concern about the vague nature of the proposal, noting the lack of specific information about number of students, per-student allocation, and expected outcomes of the program.

Additionally, there was concern about the urgency of this request; why the item should not be transitioned to the February meeting once all information is available for consideration. Mr. Smith explained that the funding is for this school year, giving the administrators only five months to use the funds if approved today. However, it can be tabled until the January Executive Committee Meeting or the February board meeting.

Mr. Whitaker shared that he would not like to present the recommendation to the board until we have the information requested.

Motion: Mr. Brecheisen presented a motion to table item eight until the February meeting once the requested information is available. Mr. Brown seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

9. Approval – Florida Prepaid Scholarship Reallocation

Chairwoman Ferradaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith presented the new Transit Bus Technician/Bus Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship Program for Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works.

There is no request for funding at this time; the recommendation seeks approval to move forward with the development of this program.

Motion: Mr. Brecheisen recommends approval to the board for adding the new Miami-Dade Transit Apprenticeship Program (Apprenticeship Title: Miami-Dade County Transit



Bus Technician/Bus Maintenance Technician). Mr. Whitaker seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

10. Approval – WIOA Title I Youth Fourteen Elements Waiver Request

Chairwoman Ferradaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith presented the recommendation to approve the following new apprenticeship programs: Heating and Air Conditioning, Project Management, and Residential Carpenter for an existing training provider, Award Excellence Training Institute. The programs have been approved at the State level; they now require regional workforce board approval.

Motion: Mr. Whitaker recommends approval to the board for adding the following new apprenticeship programs for Award Excellence Training Institute:

- Heating & Air Conditioning Mechanic Installer
- Project Manager
- Residential Carpenter

Mr. Brecheisen seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

11. Approval – On-the-Job Training Policy Revision

Chairwoman Ferradaz introduced the item; Mr. Smith reviewed recent revisions to the SFWIB On-the-Job Training Policy which has been outlined for ease of reference.

Motion: Mr. Brown recommends approval to the board recent revisions to the SFWIB On-the-Job Training Policy. Mr. Whitaker seconded the motion; **item is passed without dissent.**

No further questions or comments were presented. Item closed.

Being as there were no further questions or concerns, the meeting adjourned at 9:20am.