



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CareerSource South Florida Announces Enhance Culinary Workforce with New Training Program

Miami, FL, August 28, 2024 – Miami continues to elevate its status as a premier culinary destination, with 19 new restaurants debuting in June alone and the Michelin Guide recognizing 14 local restaurants with stars this year. To support this vibrant growth, the CareerSource South Florida (CSSF) is launching a new Culinary & Catering Skills Training Program designed to equip the local workforce with essential skills for the thriving hospitality sector.

The CSSF is investing up to \$120,000 in Workforce System funds to support Youth Co-Op's Culinary & Catering Skills Training at Miami Dade College's prestigious Culinary Institute. This initiative aligns with the board's mission to improve employment opportunities and services for individuals facing barriers.

"With the rapid expansion of Miami's culinary scene, it's vital that we invest in developing local talent," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director of CareerSource South Florida. "This program represents a significant step towards equipping individuals with the skills they need to succeed in the hospitality industry while simultaneously addressing workforce demands."

The new Culinary & Catering Employment Training (CCET) Program, a collaborative effort between, CSSF, Miami Dade College (MDC) and the AGAPE Network, will offer comprehensive training for up to 45 participants. Over eight weeks, the program will provide 200 hours of instruction in both culinary techniques and essential job skills. Participants will gain hands-on experience and earn certifications from Florida ServSafe and the American Hotel and Lodging Education Institute.

The program will be conducted at the AGAPE Network's state-of-the-art kitchen facilities, with training delivered by experienced Miami Dade College faculty and industry experts. The initiative promises substantial economic benefits, with an estimated return on investment of \$7.44 for every dollar spent and a projected net economic impact of \$892,500.00.

This training program will also play a pivotal role in supporting Miami's growing hospitality industry by preparing a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of a thriving culinary sector. The CCET Program is a testament to the ongoing commitment of the CareerSource South Florida to enhancing employment outcomes and expanding opportunities for Miamians.

The leisure and hospitality sector remains a cornerstone of Miami's economy, contributing significantly to the area's low unemployment rate. According to the CareerSource South Florida monthly labor market report, the hospitality industry in Miami-Dade added 7,200 new jobs in July and 8,400 in June. As the hospitality industry continues to thrive, the need for skilled professionals becomes increasingly crucial.

About CareerSource South Florida

CareerSource South Florida is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade County. CareerSource South Florida provides high quality, customized employment and training solutions to workers and employers in support of economic development. Services are available to everyone at no cost through a network of centers located throughout the region. For more information on CareerSource South Florida, including valuable resources for businesses and job seekers, please visit www.careersourcesfl.com.

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