



## MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (EDC)

Peter Robinson – Local Developer  
Sara Savage – City of Fellsmere  
Bruce Redus – BCC Appointee  
John Dyer – Local Industry  
Chad Olson – Tourist Industry  
Karl Zimmermann -- Member-At-Large  
William J. Penney – Banking  
Todd Howder – Member-at-Large  
Val Zudans -- City of Vero Beach  
Simms Browning -- Town of Orchid  
Joe Idlette, III – Gifford Community

Dori Stone – Indian River Chamber of Commerce  
Laura Zorc – School Board  
Linda Kinchen – City of Sebastian  
Tim Borden – Real Estate Appointee  
Amber Batchelor – Sebastian Chamber of Commerce  
James Funk – Local Manufacturing Industry  
Casey Lunceford – Indian River State College  
Anna Kirkland – Member-at-Large  
Brian Bauer – CareerSource Research Coast  
Jesse “Sam” Carroll, Jr. – Town of Indian River Shores  
Jerry Renick – Agricultural Industry

**Brian Bauer, EDC Chairman**  
**Commissioner Peter D. O’Bryan, District 4, Non-Voting Commission Liaison**

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The EDC will meet at 3:30 p.m. **on Tuesday, January 15, 2019**, in the Indian River County Administration Building B, 1800 27<sup>th</sup> St., Vero Beach, FL, in the Conference Room B1-501.

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1. Call to Order
2. Election of Chairman & Vice-Chair
3. Approval of the EDC Minutes of November 20, 2018
4. Update of CareerSource Research Coast Programs—Susan Haggard and Marcelo Dossantos
5. Manufacturing Boot Camp Program—Helene Caseltine, Economic Development Director
6. Other EDC Matters
7. Adjournment

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*“Our mission is to advocate for and advise the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners on activities related to creating, attracting, and retaining high quality jobs for our citizens as detailed within the County’s Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Plan.”*

Except for those matters specifically exempted under State Statute and Local Ordinance, the Committee shall provide an opportunity for public comment prior to the undertaking by the Committee of any action on the agenda. Public comment shall also be heard on any proposition which the Committee is to take action which was either not on the agenda or distributed to the public prior to the commencement of the meeting

## Why a Job in Manufacturing?

The manufacturing industry offers full-time jobs, pays higher than average wages, and typically includes benefits such as health insurance, vacation pay and training reimbursements.

Industry	Average Hourly Wage
Retail	\$13.03
Hotels/Restaurants	\$9.95
Construction	\$19.85
Healthcare	\$30.35
Manufacturing	\$22.03

*IRC average wage is \$21.13/hour*

Plus, you get to make things! Products made in Indian River County include personal aircraft to personal submarines – and many products in between.

***Did you know: There are 137 manufacturing companies in Indian River County!***

## About Us

The Manufacturing Boot Camp program is a partnership among several local organizations and non-profits, including:

The School District of Indian River County

CareerSource Research Coast

Boys & Girls Club of Indian River County

Gifford Youth Achievement Center

Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association

Local Business Community



For more information, please contact the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Office:

772-567-3491

[directored@indianrivered.com](mailto:directored@indianrivered.com)

INDIAN RIVER  
COUNTY CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE



## READY TO WORK Manufacturing Boot Camp



***Exploring Careers in  
the Manufacturing  
Industry***

## The Program

The “Ready to Work” Manufacturing Boot Camp is a one-week training program for graduating high school seniors.

It provides students an opportunity to explore careers in the manufacturing industry as an alternative to college or a university after graduation.

***Fun Fact: Over the next decade, 4.6 million manufacturing jobs will need to be filled in the U.S.***

This is a privately-funded program, and any high school senior in Indian River County is eligible to apply.

Students are referred to the program by their school’s Graduation Counselor.

There is no charge to participate. Any special equipment or safety attire will be provided to each student as needed, plus all students will receive Boot Camp t-shirts.

Transportation to and from the manufacturing locations, and lunch, are also provided each day.



## Program Details

The Boot Camp will focus on three key areas:

- Overview of the manufacturing industry
- Soft Skills and Workforce Readiness
- Team Building

Each day, students are transported to a manufacturer’s facility, spending time on the shop floor, interacting with employees and learning about the skill sets needed for the various positions.

At the end of each day, a “hands-on” session will be held at the Career & Tech Center.

- The Boot Camp is scheduled for:  
May 20-24, 2019, 8:00a-4p daily
- Students will be picked up and dropped off at the Career & Technical Education Center: 4680 28th Court, Gifford
- Students are expected to arrive on-time, wearing appropriate clothes and footwear – no shorts, flip-flops, or sandals; tennis shoes are allowed

## History – Early Results

The Indian River County Manufacturing Boot Camp program is based on the successful program in St. Lucie County.

Employers in our region are concerned about a growing Skills Gap in our workforce. To address this challenge, programs are being developed to focus on training and building a “pipeline” of future workers – that could be you!

In 2017, the first Manufacturing Boot camp was launched in St. Lucie County, with 21 high school seniors and five local companies.

Common themes during the students’ week-long training included:

- ✓ Corporate culture
- ✓ How to be a good employee
- ✓ Resume writing and interviewing
- ✓ Financial literacy (what to do with your paychecks)

At the end of the week, a Signing Day was held with employers, and nearly half the students were offered jobs!

# Manufacturing boot camp to prepare St. Lucie County students for high-demand jobs

Jill Marasa, YourNews contributor

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(Photo: CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM PURSUIT BOATS)  
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PORT ST. LUCIE — Student athletes have signing days. Now St. Lucie County students seeking careers in manufacturing, trade and distribution have one too.

On June 15, 22 recent graduates of St. Lucie

Public Schools will celebrate their completion of the county's first Ready to Work Manufacturing Boot Camp with an opportunity to sign on as employees with local manufacturing, trade and distribution companies.

The students, 21 young men and one young woman, graduates of Fort Pierce Central, Centennial, Lincoln Park Academy, Port St. Lucie and Treasure Coast high schools, will be attending a five-day boot camp designed to prepare them for immediate, high-demand careers.

The June 11-15 boot camp will cover the manufacturing process, quality assurance, assembly and packaging, warehousing, distribution, safety and more.

The students will also receive a resume review, brush up on interview skills and learn about personal finance.

In addition to classroom studies, the boot camp includes instructional field trips to Silver-Line Plastics, Southern Eagle Distributing, Hi-Tide Boat Lifts, Phoenix Metal Products, Walmart Distribution Center, and Pursuit Boats.

"I have a job now where I make \$8.30 an hour. I see this as my chance; nowadays we don't usually get a chance," said Wichla Jules, 19.

Jules graduated from Fort Pierce Central last month and was encouraged to apply for the boot camp by her counselor, whom she said was really excited about the program.

The students for this inaugural program were hand-selected by their guidance counselors.

“A lot of these kids have technical skills already but are not sure how to put them to use to maximize their career options and income potential. The boot camp and signing day will give these kids an opportunity to soar,” said Kim M. Johnson, M.Ed, NCC, guidance counselor at Fort Pierce Central High School. “When I told them about the program, some of the kids’ faces just lit up. I don’t always get students to return forms, but they sure did for this!”

“This program is hands-on and interactive. Its focus is to assist students in developing a base knowledge of local industries, available opportunities and the soft skills necessary to forge successful career pathways with local companies that are hiring today,” said Jill Marasa, vice president of the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (EDC).

The Signing Day event will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, June 15 at the Enterprise Hub at Indian River State College’s St. Lucie West Campus, Building F, 500 N.W. California Boulevard, Port St. Lucie.

If you are a local manufacturer, trade or distribution company interested in participating in the Signing Day event, providing employment opportunities for boot camp participants, contact Jill Marasa at 772 336-6250.

In addition to the employers, the EDC and CareerSource; CenterState Bank, the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Public Schools, Indian River State College and the Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association partnered in the development of the program.