

Employment Initiatives in the Glades Communities at CareerSource Palm Beach County

CareerSource Palm Beach County Business Solutions Associate Vice President Charles Duval today announced that CareerSource will be assisting a new employer in hiring more than 200 jobs in Belle Glade.

FINFROCK, a Central Florida design-builder and manufacturer and one of that area's largest employers, has announced plans to open a new facility in Belle Glade for the company's future expansion into Palm Beach County. They expect to break ground this year for a \$36 million 140,000 sq. ft. facility for precast concrete manufacturing facilities and administrative offices, located on approximately 94 acres, that will become the largest economic development project the Business Development Board says they have facilitated in the Glades in 30 years.

The plant will allow FINFROCK to better serve commercial developers in Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Broward and Southwest Florida counties, while bringing much needed jobs and economic stimulus to the region. The project is expected to bring more than 200 well-paying jobs and will further diversify the area's economy.

FINFROCK will offer a variety of jobs at several skill levels, along with opportunities for career advancement and additional training. They plan to work closely with CareerSource, local high schools and technical schools such as West Technical Education Center, and Palm Beach State College to provide training and long-term career options.

Mr. Duval added that he expects more good news on area employment coming in the near future.

"We conduct outreach to actual and potential major projects in the area in collaboration with organizations such as the Business Development Board. A direct result of this has been the addition of 400 new jobs over the past few years and there are nearly 350 additional jobs from 5 projects in the pipeline," he said.

He also reports that job placements at the CareerSource Belle Glade Career Center are in high gear as it's the agricultural season.

"We placed 55 job seekers in one day last week with a local grower and we have several hundred open agricultural jobs that we are recruiting for. Agriculture in the western county communities is the nation's winter food stock source and maintaining this food supply pipeline has become even more critical during the pandemic. We view our role as among the most critical in our organization's history," Mr. Duval said.

According to the Palm Beach County Cooperative Extension Service, Palm Beach County's estimated \$1.38 billion in total agricultural sales leads the State of Florida and all counties east of the Mississippi River, and is one of the ten largest county agricultural industries in the United States.

CareerSource also has placed 70 job seekers with multiple municipalities, including the Glades communities, through National Emergency Grant funding received due to the pandemic.

CareerSource recently completed an extensive renovation of their Belle Glade Career Center at 1085 South Main Street to support improved and expanded services in western Palm Beach County. During the past year, CareerSource has provided \$128,000 in job training grants to local employers and residents.

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