



For Immediate Release

August 7, 2017

Media Contact:

Mireya Eavey
Executive Director
941-809-7430
meavey@uwsuncoast.org

CareerEdge Launches New Partnership with Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg, FL: CareerEdge and the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg have formed a strategic partnership to address the training and development needs for differently abled Pinellas County residents.

CareerEdge has hired Jennifer Evans of Meraki Strategic Group to lead this initiative. Through community and employer collaboration, gaps of service will be identified and then addressed. This partnership is intended to bring CareerEdge's workforce development expertise to uncover, address, and resolve some of the complex barriers to employment that exist for differently abled Pinellas County residents. This will result in better service, customized training, increased job placement, and financial stability for the target population, decreasing unemployment in Pinellas County.

This work is allowing CareerEdge to further extend its reach of service to help lead more individuals out of poverty and onto successful pathways for sustainability. Not just with more, but with the *right* support and training services we can better mobilize individuals who have ambition but have lacked an alignment of the right resources to succeed.

"I am thrilled to begin this important partnership with the Foundation. Employment is a key component to not just financial stability but to sustaining the well-being and quality of life for any person and their family. We are excited to deliver new opportunities to Pinellas County residents who need it most," stated by CareerEdge Funders Collaborative Executive Director Mireya Eavey.

"When differently abled people in our community are engaged in the workforce, we all benefit," said Randall H. Russell, President and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg. "Not only will they experience satisfaction and greater independence, but Pinellas County will gain from their special talents and contributions."

#####

About CareerEdge Funders Collaborative

CareerEdge is an innovative partnership of business, government, and philanthropic organizations that leverages public and private dollars to provide opportunities for better jobs and wages in Manatee and Sarasota counties. The first regional collaborative of workforce investors in the southeastern United States to be designated as a site of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, CareerEdge was created with funding from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, City of Bradenton Central Community Redevelopment Agency, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Bank of America, Bradenton 14th Street Community Redevelopment Agency, Bradenton Downtown Development Authority, and Manatee Community Action Agency.

It is also supported by contributions from the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation, Microsoft, Sarasota County Government, Jane's Trust, JP Morgan Chase, Scheidel Foundation, Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg and United Way Suncoast. For more information about CareerEdge and its partners, please visit www.careeredgefunders.org or call 941.328.6985

About the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg serves residents of South Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg to achieve health equity-- ensuring that every person, family, and community has a fair opportunity to live a long disease-free, healthy life regardless of race, ethnicity, income level or gender preference.

The Foundation is a private foundation, formed in 2013 following the sale of the nonprofit Bayfront Health St. Petersburg, with more than \$150 million endowment to support our community. The primary areas of focus are grantmaking, convening, policy advocacy, and strategic communications.

About Meraki Strategic Group

Meraki Strategic Group, LLC. is a Certified Woman Owned Business. The goal of Meraki is to support other small businesses, start-ups, and non-profits to increase their revenue, funding and impact through technical writing, consulting, and training. Meraki services include HR support, creating company infrastructure, developing personnel growth, customized training, and innovative strategic solutions for initiatives that are focused on serving disadvantaged populations with workforce support and development.

Meraki (mah-rah-kee), like the Greek word, is to leave a piece of yourself behind in the work that you do. At Meraki, you receive customized, creative, and competitive solutions that are delivered with passion and pride.

For more information on Meraki Strategic Group, contact: J.Evans@MerakiStrategicGroup.com

#####