



For Immediate Release

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CareerEdge Funders Collaborative Profiled in National Report

Sarasota Fl. – November 7, 2016: The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recently released a report about the changing landscape of workforce "learning systems." CareerEdge is 1 of 5 national workforce development organizations profiled in the document, titled *Chutes & Ladders: The New Rules of the Game for Upskilling Workers*. According to the report, CareerEdge's success has been attributable in part to relationships with regional economic development organizations.

Mark Huey, CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County states that, "CareerEdge has been able to effectively bridge the gap between employers, educators, and job seekers. We are seeing a great increase in job and industry growth in our region, and CareerEdge has played a significant role in getting us there."

The council also highlighted CareerEdge's reliance on data to drive its workforce investments, stating that it shows a "proactive, demand-driven approach to workforce development that benefits both local employers and workers."

The report focused on the benefits regional workforce developers can have on employers, employees and the economy. Employees that actively learned while on the job, through trainings, certificates, or degree programs, were more productive, accomplished their goals, and had a better sense of well-being at their job. Employers were able to retain, expand, and attract future employees by their support of the "working learner" environment.

According to the IEDC, workforce developers can look at different industries unbiasedly and acknowledge the skills gaps that exist in regional economies. They are then able to create strategies to strengthen local workforce pipelines "We have tackled workforce development through an economic development lens since inception," said Executive Director of CareerEdge, Mireya Eavey.

The CareerEdge Funders Collaborative case study highlighted the history and the impact the organization has had over the last 5 years. In the Sarasota-Manatee region alone, CareerEdge has helped local workers to receive over 2000 raises, an increase of \$2.42 in hourly pay, 540 promotions, and \$15,200 in bonuses. CareerEdge has also funded over 3,100 trainings and increased total wages in the region by \$23 million.

For more information about CareerEdge, go to: www.careeredgefunders.org

About CareerEdge

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, Sarasota, and Charlotte 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 and United Way Suncoast . For more information about CareerEdge and its partners, please visit www.careeredgefunders.org or call 941.328.6985