



## Target industry occupational analysis discussed at September TeCMEN

TeCMEN welcomed Pam Tedesco, Vice President of Workforce Initiatives, Florida's Great Northwest, as she discussed their target industry occupational analysis at the September meeting.

In early 2006, Florida's Great Northwest received a U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development, or WIRED, grant which launched the WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative. The purpose is to create high-skill, high-wage jobs in specific target industries, develop a critical mass of primary sector businesses and support businesses in those target industries, and ensure a skilled workforce to meet the employment needs of those businesses.

FGNW compiled a sampling of labor market information of 150 occupations associated with the region's target and supporting industries, including Aviation, Aerospace, Defense and National Security; Health

Sciences and Human Performance Enhancement; Renewable Energy & the Environment; Transportation & Logistics; Information Technology; and Research & Engineering Services

Of those occupations, data was available for 118 and is contained in the report. The data compares labor wage rates for selected occupations as well as employment growth projections. The comparisons consisted of wage structure and employment in the five primary Workforce regions in the FGNW area. Researchers then applied selection criteria, namely current employment density in Northwest Florida, regional growth projections, wage structure (wages exceed regional average occupational wage of \$15.40), and projected employment demand.

Researchers concluded that 15 occupations met the primary thresholds, 4 in Architecture, Engineering and Engineering Support, 8 in Computer and

Mathematical, and 3 in Installation, Maintenance and Repair. Thirteen occupations met the secondary thresholds, 10 in Architecture, Engineering and Engineering Support, 2 in Installation, Maintenance and Repair, and 1 in Other Support.

This report represents the first phase of the workforce analysis, the purpose of which is to evaluate the occupations based on each occupation's relevance to the target industries, relevance to the objectives of the WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative, and regional employment demand.

Of particular interest to the group was the overall projected annual demand in different occupations. For instance, in the Architecture, Engineering and Engineering Support category, the study suggests that their will be a projected annual demand of 279 to fill jobs in this category, such as Aerospace Engineers (33), Civil Engineers (39), Mechanical Engineers (29), and Electrical/

Electronics Engineering Technicians (32). The Computer and Mathematical category projects annual demand at 655, with the highest demand in Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts (144), Computer Systems Analysts (115), Computer Software Engineers, Applications (105), and Computer Support Specialists (94). The Installation, Maintenance and Repair category projects annual demand at 384, with the highest demand in Maintenance and Repair Workers, General (240), First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics, Installers and Repairers (69) and Installation, Maintenance and Repair Workers, All Other (37).

The report concludes by saying that the emphasis on meeting the employment needs of the Northwest Florida targeted industries in the areas of engineering and information technology fields correlates with other studies conducted by FGNW over

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## Haas Center to present educational requirements study brief in October

The results of the much-anticipated and eagerly-awaited Educational Requirements Study from the Haas Center will be center-stage at the October Meeting. Melissa Neal, Associate Director at the Center, will make the presentation.

Initially designed as a complement to the EDC's marketing

efforts for the new Emerald Coast Technology and Research Center, the study provides "a comprehensive assessment of the components of the tri-county (Okaloosa, Escambia and Santa Rosa) higher education system that supports jobs in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related

fields." The study team feels "the data contained in this report will allow planners to more fully realize the potential benefits of the Emerald Coast Technology and Research Center (ECTRC) with respect to workforce needs and workforce training in certain high-wage, high-skill engineering sectors

of the economy."

**Note that the date for this month's meeting has changed to Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 7:30 a.m.** at the Northwest Florida State College/University of West Florida Emerald Coast Campus in Fort Walton Beach. See you there!



Economic Development  
Council of Okaloosa County

#### Reminders:

- The presentation from the September meeting is available on line. To view go to [www.tecmen.org](http://www.tecmen.org).
- The next TeCMEN meeting is Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 a.m., at the NFSC-UWF Emerald Coast Campus in Fort Walton Beach. **NOTE DATE CHANGE!**
- The November TeCMEN meeting date and program are TBD. The Veterans' Day holiday is scheduled to be observed November 11, 2008, which is our normal meeting date. We'll discuss and decide at the October meeting. Keep your eyes on this space for the updated info.

*Technology Coast Manufacturing & Engineering Network (TeCMEN) is comprised of EDC-member companies promoting growth and advancement within Okaloosa's technology-based business community through the association, collaboration, and contract-teaming of its manufacturing, engineering, technology and defense industry clusters. Using a collaborative concept, these companies join together to compete for and complete both defense-contracting and other substantial business opportunities that are too expansive for a single business to undertake.*

*TeCMEN member companies represent every major manufacturing and engineering discipline required to support requirements of both the military missions and the civilian community including:*

- *Aerospace & Aviation*
- *Information Technology*
- *Micro-Electronics*
- *Biometric Technology*
- *Precision Machining & Metal Fabrication*

*Assisting in the EDC's commitment are Okaloosa's learning institutions Northwest Florida State College, the University of West Florida, and the University of Florida Research & Engineering Education Facility.*



For more information on TeCMEN,  
contact Jeff Fanto at [jeff@florida-edc.org](mailto:jeff@florida-edc.org)

## FGNW Target Industry Occupational Analysis report (continued)

the last two years. The Northwest Florida Target Industries Study (Jan '08) identifies engineering and information technology industries as critical support industries to the development of the region's four target industries. FGNW's existing business analysis of the Aerospace and Defense Industry and the Information Technology Industry, as well as the results from other target industries gathered in 2007 and 2008 as part of the region's existing

business interview program confirm that the engineering and information technology occupations are a regional strength and are the occupations most critical to developing the target industries; the occupations within those target industries with the highest future demand, and the occupations that are currently in demand and are the most scarce in the region's employment pool and are the hardest to fill.

The occupations identified in this and other reports confirm the critical correlation of the IT and engineering occupations to the development of a sustainable and diversified economy in Northwest Florida. These should be the focus of attention for workforce development, economic development, and education over at least the next decade.

Next steps in the complete analysis of this issue includes a

comparison of the educational and training requirements of key occupations against existing capacity. This will include identifying deficiencies in the underutilization of existing capacity (scholarships) and the lack of adequate capacity (program development). This will help researchers determine the gaps in the education/training systems that need to be addressed in order to meet demand in the future.

For more information on this report or the WIRED Northwest Florida Initiative, contact Pam Tedesco at 850-337-3469 or e-mail [ptedesco@fgnw.org](mailto:ptedesco@fgnw.org).

### Coming events at the EDC

- "Vision of Progress" TV show for October features Gloria Frazier, Vice President of the Northwest Florida State College Foundation and Carla Reinlie, NFSC's Associate Director for College Advancement, as they discuss the Foundation's upcoming fundraiser, "Leading Women's Symposium and Golf Event" with keynote speaker, Valorie Burton, author of "How Did I get So Busy?".

