



Contact: Wicker Perlis
Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County
wperlis@youredc.com
Office: 772.324.2014 x203 Cell: 504.331.0516

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TCCEED internship program wraps up with multiple job offers



Interns, family, friends, mentors and community leaders pose at the 2026 TCCEED summer internship program graduation ceremony, held Friday, July 24 at the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County's Westside Club Complex. (Photo by MaryAnn Ketcham/Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County)

Fort Pierce/July 30, 2026 – For the second year in a row, the Treasure Coast Center for Economic and Education Development internship program ended with many participants moving directly into the workforce — with close to 20 participants leaving this year's graduation ceremony with job offers in-hand.

Walking into the ceremony – held Friday, July 24 at the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County's Westside Club Complex in Fort Pierce and attended by more than 300 family, friends and mentors – 16 interns had been extended employment opportunities by their internship hosts. By the time the ceremony ended, that number would grow to 17, or nearly one-third of all interns in the program.

That additional job offer went to Chyanne Coins, a 17-year-old rising senior at Port St. Lucie High School, who was offered a job on-the-spot at graduation by her internship host, voco Sandpiper All-Inclusive Resort.

Many of the remaining 43 interns are continuing into their final years of high school or pursuing postsecondary education. Businesses also expressed their gratitude and support to those interns who did not accept formal job offers. One rising high school senior, who interned with District Planning Group, was awarded a scholarship at graduation by her internship supervisors, which will support her plans to attend college.

“Watching our interns cross the stage at graduation was a powerful reminder of why this program matters. Throughout the summer, we witness their growth, confidence, and determination, but hearing them share how this experience changed their lives — and hearing our business partners describe the value these students brought to their organizations — was truly inspiring,” TCCEED Executive Director Anita Fischer said. “This program is successful because it is built on partnership. We are incredibly grateful to the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and St. Lucie Public Schools for their unwavering commitment and countless hours of hard work to make this opportunity possible for our students. We also want to thank our business partners for investing in the next generation of talent and opening their doors to these young professionals. Together, we are creating meaningful workforce experiences, strengthening our local talent pipeline and changing lives. We are proud of every intern and thankful to their families for supporting them throughout this journey.”

The 17 interns that were offered jobs increased from 14 the previous year, just one of many ways in which the program has grown in its second year.

The TCCEED summer internship program began in 2025 with 50 students working at 25 businesses. In 2026, the number of participants grew to 60, and the number of businesses has doubled to 50 across 12 industries, including healthcare, construction and skilled trades, education, government, technology, hospitality, manufacturing, nonprofit services and business development. The number of students applying to be a part of the program increased from 91 in 2025 to 320 in 2026.

“We look forward to seeing this program grow even more in 2027, with hopefully more interns and more businesses than we had this year. We’ve seen the impact that this program can have on young people in our community, and on the businesses that host them, over the last two years, and we know that we can do even more next year. The sky is the limit,” Fischer said.

The 2025 and 2026 internship programs were open to all St. Lucie Public Schools students in grades 10-12. For the second year, participants were paid \$15 per hour by a private donor through the Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County, allowing students to be paid for their work while ensuring the maximum number of businesses possible can participate.

Interns worked 27 hours per week. 24 hours were worked on-site with their employers and 3 hours each Friday were spent at the Boys and Girls Clubs with career coaches. The program was seven weeks long. The first week was an orientation, then 6 weeks were spent on-site with the businesses. This year, the internship program ran June 8-July 24.

About TCCEED

The Treasure Coast Center for Economic and Educational Development is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that connects the region's businesses, educators and workforce leaders to build a stronger, more competitive talent pipeline in St. Lucie County and beyond. TCCEED helps align education with community needs, helping businesses grow while providing career opportunities for individuals. Contact TCCEED at 772.324.2014 ext. 204 or visit www.tcceed.org.

About the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County

The Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (EDC) is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting economic vitality in St. Lucie County through the attraction, retention and expansion of businesses in the community. The EDC works in partnership with local governments and the private sector to advance its goals of creating more and better-paying jobs for residents, broadening the tax base and improving St. Lucie County's economic quality of life. Contact the EDC at 772.324.2014, contact@youredc.com or www.youredc.com.