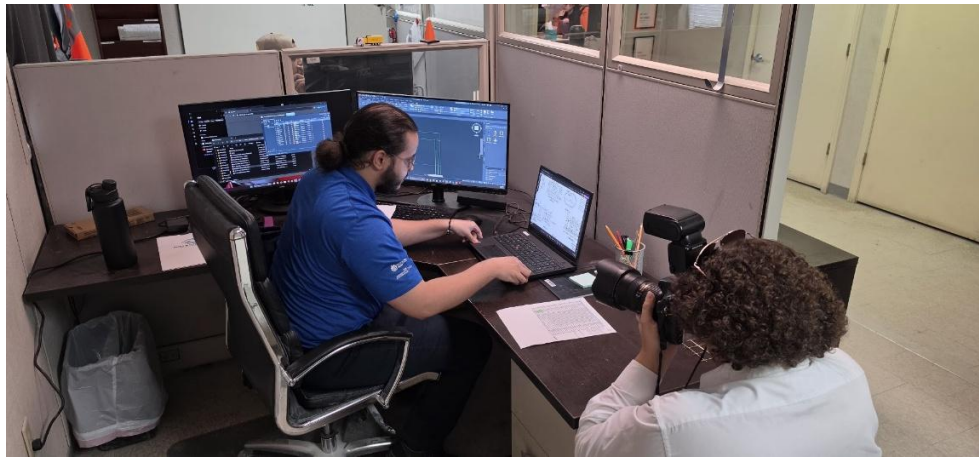


Contact: Wicker Perlis
Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County
wperlis@youredc.com
Office: 772.324.2014 x203 Cell: 504.331.0516

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TCCEED showcases internship program at first of two media days



TCCEED internship program participant Matthew Polanco is photographed by members of the media as he works on an AutoCAD design program as part of his internship with Precast Specialties in Fort Pierce during a July 9, 2026 media day event.



TCCEED internship program participants Mikael Baltodano (left) and Enrique Rosario Liz (second from the left) pose with Sun Grove Montessori Head of School Shauna Nobile (second from the right) and past TCCEED intern Janeliz Gonzalez, a current Sun Grove employee, at a July 9, 2026 media day event at the school.

Port St. Lucie/July 15, 2026 – The Treasure Coast Center for Economic and Educational Development (TCCEED) has seen tremendous growth in the second year of its internship program, as highlighted on a Thursday, July 9 media day, during which local news outlets had the opportunity to see three interns, and one past intern, in action and to share the impact of the program with their audiences.

Members of the media, along with officials from the Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County, Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County and St. Lucie Public Schools, visited two internship sites: Sun Grove Montessori and Precast Specialties.

Enrique Rosario Liz, a 2026 graduated senior from Port St. Lucie High School, is interning with Sun Grove as part of the TCCEED program, before pursuing a degree in Education at the University of Florida. Through his internship at Sun Grove, Enrique is gaining hands-on experience in early childhood education.

While at Sun Grove, media also had the opportunity to speak with Janeliz Gonzalez, a student at Indian River State College and 2025 graduate of Fort Pierce Central High School who participated in an internship at Sun Grove in 2025 and was later hired by the school.

Matthew Polanco, also a 2026 graduated senior from Port St. Lucie High School, is interning with Precast Specialties, where he is making use of an AutoCAD software certification that he gained through the St. Lucie Public Schools Career and Technical Education programs.

Also there for both media day stops was Mikael Baltodano, a rising senior at St. Lucie West Centennial High School who is in his second year of interning with TCCEED in its office, learning the ins-and-outs of nonprofit work and social media management.

A second media day will be held Thursday, July 23 and is planned to include interns working with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and Aircraft Turbine Works, with additional details to follow between now and the event.

"Thank you to those who attended our first media day of our 2026 internship program, and to our intern hosts for welcoming them into their workplaces in order to highlight the important work that is being

done in their classrooms and worksites,” TCCEED Executive Director Anita Fischer said. “One of the most important messages we want to send through this internship program is that there are so many different kinds of jobs in St. Lucie County, and on the Treasure Coast. Many people, and not just young people, may not be aware of the high-quality jobs we have, across many different fields. Our interns are seeing that this summer, and hopefully the story is getting out to the wider community as well.”

The TCCEED summer internship program began in 2025 with 50 students working at 25 businesses. Of those 50, 14 were offered jobs with the same employer immediately after the conclusion of the internship. In 2026, the number of participants has grown to 61 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.

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

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

“Our internship program, which is entirely funded through the generosity of a private donor, has a tremendous impact on the young people in our community, giving them real-world workplace experiences, but we also regularly hear from businesses the positive impact that hosting interns has for them,” Fischer said. “We are thrilled that we have seen so much growth in the number of interns and businesses participating over the last year, and we look forward to seeing the long-term impact their participation will have for years to come.”

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.