

# Action Item 1

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## Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act Industry Certification Lists Approval

### Background:

The Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act was created by the 2007 legislature to provide a statewide planning partnership between business and education communities to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and to sustain a strong knowledge-based economy. One of the key aims of this bill is to improve middle and high school academic performance by providing rigorous and relevant career-themed curriculum that articulates to postsecondary level coursework and leads to industry certifications.

The implementation of this Act requires cross-agency coordination involving Workforce Florida, the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Florida Department of Education. The law requires the Agency for Workforce Innovation to define industry certification based upon the highest available national standards for specific industry certifications. By contract agreement between AWI and WFI, AWI is required to define and propose to WFI additional industry certifications based on national standards. WFI then reviews, approves and publishes by March 1 an annual update to the Comprehensive Industry Certification List. The final 2009-10 *Comprehensive Industry Certification List* included 382 approved certifications. The Department of Education uses WFI's approved *Comprehensive Industry Certification List* to identify program-to-certification linkages and to identify certifications deemed sufficiently rigorous academically and, thus, eligible for bonus FTE funding.

Last fall during September and October, various business and industry groups, regional workforce boards, school districts and career and professional academies used a formalized process through Workforce Florida's website to submit certifications for consideration as additions to the 2010-2011 *Comprehensive Industry Certification List*. At the close of the submission period October 31, 115 unduplicated responses were received. These requests were compiled and forwarded to the Agency for Workforce Innovation for research.

An initial internal review process by AWI was used to determine if the proposed certification was 1) linked to occupations on Florida's Statewide Demand Occupations List or Enterprise Florida's Emerging Industries List; 2) nationally recognized; 3) a product of a third independent party; and 4) have a proctored exam. A working group comprised of representatives from Workforce Florida, the Department of Education, the Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Banner Center for Secondary Academies, initially reviewed the compiled list of certifications that met the initial requirements. This list of newly proposed certifications was sent to all Banner Center Advisory Council members and various industry groups for further review and vetting.

After vetting by industry groups and Banner Centers, the CAPE working group met and thoroughly reviewed all submitted certifications and formulated their final recommendation for presentation to the Business Competitiveness Council. This newly proposed list includes 115 new certifications. Additionally, the current Comprehensive List has been thoroughly reviewed and revisions/deletions were made resulting from changes by the certifying entities, lack of rigor, lack of not having an independent third party as the certifying agency, or that fact that the occupations were dropped from the Statewide Demand Occupations List due to decrease in average growth rate and/or openings. The revised Comprehensive Industry Certification List now includes 378 certifications.

Florida Statue 1003.492(2) and implementing administrative rules approved for the CAPE industry certification list requires that the full WFI Board of Directors approve the updated list annually at its February meeting. Since this initiative falls under the direction of the Business Competitiveness Council, it must first be considered and approved by the Council before moving to the full board for action at the upcoming February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **NEEDED ACTION**

- **Approval of recommended additions to the 2010-2011 Comprehensive Industry Certification List.**
- **Approval of modifications to the current 2009-2010 Comprehensive Industry Certification List. Modified 2009-2010 list with newly approved certifications will constitute the 2010-2011 Industry Certification List. The approved list will be brought before the full WFI Board of Directors for action on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.**
- **Authorize WFI staff, in collaboration with AWI and DOE staff, to make any necessary revisions to certifications on the approved Comprehensive Industry Certification List that may evolve from changes by the certifying entities relating to the release of newer versions, upgrades or other changes that may occur relating to eligibility issues of certification requirements.**