



MISSION OF THE CITRUS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: The Citrus County Chamber of Commerce is an organization of businesses unified in efforts to advance the economic growth of the region, promote the interests of the business community, provide key leadership on key commerce issues and preserve the county's quality of life.

Chamber Connection

915 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429 · 352-795-3149 · 203 E. Dampier St., Inverness, FL 34450 · 352-726-2801

February is Career & Technical Education Month!

Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida Commissioner of Education Manny Diaz, Jr. commemorated February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. CTE Month is

observed to recognize the accomplishments of students and educators and highlight the collaboration among local leaders, businesses and industry partners that contribute to the success of

CTE programs across Florida.

As of February 7th, Florida has nearly 800,000 K-12 CTE students – the highest in the state's history – more than 380,000 postsecondary CTE students, and over

17,000 registered apprentices.

To celebrate CTE Month, the Chamber is shining a spotlight on some of the organizations working hard to build the workforce of tomorrow, today!

Withlacoochee Technical College

Withlacoochee Technical College in Inverness has spent countless years training many of our current workforce and continues to build up students for a successful career through hands-on, workplace-based training in state-of-the-art facilities with high-tech equipment. Interested High school students should contact their certified school counselor for more information on how to get engaged or visit www.wtcollege.org.

Skill Building Class, Inc.

Skill Building Class, Inc. is a free program for students aged 10 -17 to teach valuable life skills through local craftsmen and business owners. Created by Josh Hicks, Handy Hicks, the class began to help curb the impacts of childhood poverty by introducing preteens and teenagers to specialty trades to not just interest them, but also grow their knowledge and self-confidence. Skills covered over the 12-week course include fencing, electric, sound & audio, cooking, sewing, roofing, auto mechanic, and more. For more information, either visit skillbuildingclassinc.com, call 352-436-3105 or email skillbuildingclassinc@gmail.com.

Citrus Construction Academy

Citrus Construction Academy began as an idea presented by Harold Walker at a Chamber Fire Up Citrus! event. Through community support, it grew into the Citrus Construction Bus and has now found itself a home for the second year as a curriculum-based program at Citrus High School instructed by Robert Tetter. The purpose of the Construction Academy is to provide students the best foundation possible for

postsecondary opportunities in the building construction industry and/or prepare them for the skills needed to be competitive as they enter the workforce. The curriculum comes from the Home Builders Institute (HBI), the nation's leading educational resource for Career & Technical Education (CTE) in the building industry, offering students the opportunity to earn many professional career certifications through the Pre-Apprenticeship Training including Building Construction Technology, Carpentry, Core, and Electrical. More information can be found at www.chs.citruschools.org.

Lecanto School of the Arts

Lecanto School of the Arts at Lecanto High School is a program designed for students with a high interest in the visual arts. Students who graduate from LSA can earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Career and Technical Education (CTE) in the following pathways: Painting/Drawing (2D Art), Sculpture/Pottery (3D Art), Digital Design, 3D Animation Technology. This program strives to develop responsible, skilled, and competitive students. More information can be found online at https://lhs.citruschools.org/Programs/lecanto_school_of_art.

Academy of Computer Science

The Academy of Computer Science at Citrus High School provides students with the best foundation possible in the computer sciences. In the Academy, students will have the opportunity to earn many industry certifications including Microsoft Office Specialist, Microsoft Technology Associate, Adobe

Certified Professional and more. Students will learn coding using Block-Based Programming, Python, HTML/CSS and Java. Students are also given the opportunity to work on a "passion project," something they typically wouldn't have the opportunity to work on in school. Examples of projects include video game design, creating audio and video podcasts. Learn more online at https://chs.citruschools.org/student_links/academy_of_computer_science.

Academy of Health Careers

The Crystal River High School Academy of Health Careers prepares high school students for a multitude of careers in the life sciences as well as offers the opportunity to earn job-ready certifications in each respective pathway. Program pathways include nursing assistant, Project Lead the Way honors biomedical sciences, dental assisting, veterinary assistant, and emergency medical responding/technician. Skills developed in these programs include using tools and technology in the workplace, using quantitative skills appropriately, working within a team, developing effective written and verbal communication skills, understanding complex materials, and learning to critically think on the job. Learn more online at https://crh.citruschools.org/clubs_organizations/academy_of_health_careers.

Local Businesses

Additionally, some local businesses offer on-the-job apprentice training in various careers. CTE offers great prospects for successful and rewarding careers. For more information on statewide resources, visit <https://gettherefl.com/>.

Hop on the bus to Tallahassee: Join the Chamber for Citrus County Legislative Day

The Citrus County Chamber continues the tradition of organizing its annual Legislative Day bus trip to Tallahassee and we invite you to join us!

The March 23 trip will feature a morning of legislators and agency officials who will meet with us to discuss issues of local, regional and state importance, with some time for questions and answers. It is a great way to get an overview of what is happening during

the 2023 Legislative Session, with a focus on matters of significance to Citrus County.

The trip includes round-trip transportation from Crystal River via motorcoach, all speaker sessions, and a catered gourmet buffet lunch. Following lunch, you will have time to sit in on House and Senate sessions or committee meetings, or explore the Capitol area downtown before returning to Citrus County late in the

afternoon.

The trip is \$85/person and spaces are limited. To register or for further information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2s3stekb>, or contact Ardath Prendergast at ardath@citruscountychamber.com or 352-795-3149.

The Chamber thanks presenting sponsor Crystal Tractor and Motorcycle Group, along with Duke Energy, CareerSource and Ignited Business Brokers for helping to make this trip possible.

RECENT RIBBON CUTTING

The Chamber is growing every week. We welcome our new members and thank all of them for joining the Chamber. We encourage the community to support their businesses.

CenterWell Home Health



Welcome to the Chamber, CenterWell Home Health (Beverly Hills, FL)! There is no place you'd rather recover than in the comfort and safety of your home. That's why CenterWell brings personalized, comprehensive care directly to you. Their clinicians are ready to serve you with not only warmth and empathy, but also with the skill and expertise to help you regain your strength and maintain your independence. From their hearts to your home, they're grateful to walk alongside you toward your best health. (352) 746-5010. 4465 N Lecanto Hwy Beverly Hills FL 34465. www.centerwellhomehealth.com

Jessie's Place - Citrus County Children's Advocacy Center



Welcome to the Chamber, Jessie's Place-Citrus County Children's Advocacy Center 2nd location in INVERNESS! We are so grateful to see the impact your organization will continue to have with this added location. Jessie's Place is a child advocacy center where investigative efforts of law enforcement and DCF are coordinated and supported with collaboration from community partners of multiple disciplines. In our child-friendly facility, abused and neglected children receive specialized forensic interviews and medical exams. The children and their families receive advocacy services and trauma-focused, evidence-based therapy to help heal the trauma and begin their journey to recovery. All services are provided free of charge. 352-270-8814. 2214 HWY 44 West, Inverness, FL, 34453. <https://www.jessiesplacecitrus.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

03/04-03/05 Floral City Strawberry Festival; Floral Park
03/10 March Chamber Luncheon; Citrus Hills Golf & Country Club; Speaker: Sgt. Rachael Montgomery, CCSO – Behavioral Health Division
03/16 March Mixer hosted by Daystar Life Center; Daystar Life Center
03/22-03/23 Annual Legislative Days; Tallahassee

Chamber Legacy Members



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LIFESOUTH
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LUCID
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WEST CENTRAL
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COASTAL
ACCOUNTING & TAX ADVISORS, CPAs, PA

MASTERS
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

The Chamber recognizes our Legacy Partners that have made a special investment in the Chamber to support the programs and mission of the Chamber. For information on becoming a Legacy Partner, please contact the Chamber by emailing Corrine@CitrusCountyChamber.com.