ACHIEVING SCALE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Centralina Council of Governments has prioritized skills development and workforce capacity as a key feature of their plan to grow their economy. As a part of their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the Centralina COG engaged CAEL to assess the how the current mix of education and training assets align with target industries, and how increasing the capacity of the education and training system might further enhance economic growth. Based on the economic analysis and assessment of the education and workforce assets, CAEL created a strategy to increase workforce skills, including increasing target sector industry and career awareness, increasing program availability in key sectors, enhancing communication and collaboration among education and training stakeholders, and addressing the needs of adult and non-traditional learners.

"As a region we've been able to galvanize momentum, increase coordination and form dynamic partnerships using the Workforce Alignment Strategy CAEL developed with us. The CAEL team helped us coordinate the many moving parts which are critical to producing the talent our industries need. CAEL also shared best practices to better collaborate and regionally increase our efficiency in terms of education and training. CAEL was able to provide sound guidance and a clear roadmap to take us from where we were to where we needed to go."

- Michael L. Manis, CEcD, Director, Community and Economic Development Centralina Council of Governments

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