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Florida Ready To Work Program

CRESTVIEW, FL - Florida's unemployment numbers are at a 13 year high.

But now a local school district is being honored for helping students beat those odds.

What's the "Florida Ready To Work" program doing to make a difference?

Florida ready to work is an effort to give job seekers real credentials they can show to potential employers.

The Okaloosa County School District is being recognized for leading the state in the number of students that complete the program.

Lacy/Crestview HS "It's not easy to get a job right now"

Crestview High School Senior Lacy Gatlin knows she's lucky to have a part time job, when so many people are looking.

Mary Lou Reed/Workforce Board "As we're speaking, every computer is being used for individuals who are searching for employment"

Brittney Gilliam/Crestview HS "I'm going to be in college next year, and I'm going to need a job"

Brittney Gilliam may have a competitive advantage a Florida Ready To Work Certificate that sends potential employers a message.

Mary Lou Reed "This individual has the skills necessary to do the job and to learn the job"

Students earn ready to work certificates by taking online tests in reasoning, communication, and problem solving. Brittney says its the culmination of everything she's learned in school.

Brittney Gilliam "Let's see how your common sense, your book knowledge, how you can interpret the material that's set in front of you and how you can deal with it"

Crestview High School leads the state in the number of students completing the program - four hundred twenty two last year. Principal Ed Coleman says the "Ready To Work" tests also help students with FCAT and college entrance exams.

Mr. Coleman "We had one of the students last year that wasn't that successful on the ACT, went through the ready to work program, was very successful in that, went back and took the test again and passed it, and they're off to college this year"

Ready to learn, ready to work, ready to succeed.

Brittney Gilliam "It's more than just....hey guess what you got a good grade on this. It's hey, you're going good, and you're on the right track."

Florida Ready To Work gives local schools fifteen bucks per test to help cover administrative costs.

Crestview High School used part of that money for a scholarship drawing to encourage students to participate.

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