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### Hundreds expected at Flagler job Friday



The job fair will be held at the Daytona State College Palm Coast campus, 3000 Palm Coast Pkwy, SE - Bldg 3, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2016.

By Brittany Jones, Reporter  
Last Updated: Wednesday, March 09, 2016, 5:42 PM

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**FLAGLER COUNTY** -- Flagler County is gearing up for a huge job fair Friday that is expected to draw hundreds.

Tim Hale and his wife's local technology consulting company, Coastal Cloud, is trying to find workers to join their team.

"That involves continuing to hire a lot of people locally," said Hale.

Hale's local business is one of more than 40 employers looking to fill jobs at the county's job fair this Friday, March 11.

They started their company three years ago consulting and supplying databases and software across the country.

But when Coastal Cloud started it was a time people could barely find jobs.

"Part of that is what motivates us to open our doors the local economy at the time had not been diversified and was hit heavily by the real estate crash," said Hale.

But Hale said his company has tried to be a saving grace to many by hiring 95 people so far.

Currently, Flagler County's unemployment rate is at 5.5 percent compared to the state's 5.0 percent, but just a couple years ago the county's unemployment rate was about 9 percent or higher.

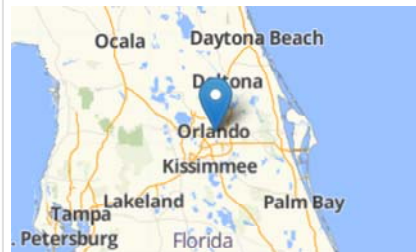
The Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) said it wasn't until 2015 that the county started to turn around from the worst unemployment rate in the state.

"It was horribly disheartening for so many people the level if foreclosures we had in Palm coast were outrageous so few now we had empty homes," said Katrina Austin, DEO's project manager.



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Last year the DEO said the fair drew more than 500 job seekers and this year they expect more.

Hale is hoping the job fair will give them a chance to give more people a shot at a career.

"It's great it's very, very rewarding we've had a lot of people that told us thru would be flipping burgers if we hadn't open our doors," said Hale.

DEO says the county now ranks at 14 in the state for unemployment.

The job fair will be held at the Daytona State College Palm Coast campus, 3000 Palm Coast Pkwy, SE - Bldg 3, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday.

For more information go to: <http://business.flaglerchamber.org/events/details/flagler-county-job-fair-2016-8936>



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