



# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN TO RECOGNIZE TOP CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPANIES FOR ADULT LEARNERS**

*Deadline for Online Applications Is October 28; Winners to be Highlighted*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (July 1, 2016)** – Research shows that by 2020, 65% of jobs will require a high-quality credential or degree. In Florida, it's estimated that only 46% currently meet that requirement. To help shrink this gap, Heart of Florida United Way and the Central Florida College Access Network have set out to recognize local companies that are leading the way by offering valuable educational opportunities for employees to attain credentials and enhance job mobility.

Applications for the “Top Companies for Adult Learners” are now available for employers to self-nominate at [www.HFUW.org/AdultLearners](http://www.HFUW.org/AdultLearners). The deadline for applications is October 28 at 5 p.m. Top companies will be selected by a judging panel based on factors like education as part of company culture, educational benefits available and how many employees have taken advantage of the program. The top ranked companies will be revealed at a United Way event in early 2017.

“We know that we need a steady flow of talent for the Central Florida economy to thrive – and a sure way to do that is by investing in the talent that is already here,” said Robert H. (Bob) Brown, president & CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. “Our hope is that by highlighting companies who are doing this well, others will follow suit to ensure our community remains competitive and residents can prosper.”

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### **About Heart of Florida United Way**

*Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year, it raised and managed \$26.1 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income, health and basic needs. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Gifts In Kind Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers more than \$2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 400,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. United Way partners with local businesses, government, other charities to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for people in need. Visit [www.HFUW.org](http://www.HFUW.org) for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.*

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