



Town of Palm Beach United Way

44 Coconut Row, M201
Palm Beach, FL 33480
561-655-1919

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EXCLUSIVE NEW ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM WILL BENEFIT PALM BEACH COUNTY JOB SEEKERS AND CAREER-MINDED RESIDENTS

For Immediate Release – May 23, 2022

Contact: Aleese Kopf, 561-655-1919 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

The Town of Palm Beach United Way is excited to announce a new online learning opportunity from the **Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream** designed to teach technical skills that help adults secure professional certificates for in-demand jobs. This exclusive program is an unparalleled and unique opportunity for individuals and families in Palm Beach County.

The American Dream Academy is an entirely online program that offers courses that build job-ready skills created by some of America's largest companies, including IBM, Meta, and Google. Learners can receive certificates for sought-after jobs such as data analytics, IT support, cybersecurity, project management, sales operations, and digital marketing. Courses are pre-approved for college credit. The Academy also provides an opportunity to hone important workplace and leadership skills that today's employers value most, including communications, problem solving and technical support.

Registration began on May 1, 2022, and is available on a first come, first served basis. To register, and to learn more visit www.palmbeachunitedway.org/american-dream-academy.

"This is a special opportunity we are encouraging all Palm Beach County residents to take advantage of, regardless of their employment status, age, education background, or career goals," said **Beth Walton**, CEO of Town of Palm Beach United Way. "It's a program that's open and beneficial to everyone, and it is essential in today's economy. Individuals with post-secondary degrees and certifications are more likely to participate in the workforce and earn higher wages. They are also more likely to access safer housing, healthier food and better medical care."

Florida's minimum wage is \$10.00 per hour. In Palm Beach County, a single adult with one dependent in childcare would need to make \$52,152 a year, or \$26.08 an hour to earn enough to cover the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy, according to a financial hardship study by United Way of Florida. This includes housing, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes. It does NOT include savings for emergencies or future goals such as continued education or retirement.

The American Dream Academy is open to job seekers who have the drive and who are:

- 18 years or older and English-language proficient
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Are a resident of the United States with a valid, government-issued identification
- Can commit approximately 5 to 10 hours a week to complete the six-month program

"We are grateful for the commitment of the Town of Palm Beach United Way to ensure these tuition-free certificates are distributed to community members who need them most," says **Dr. Kerry Healey**, President of the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream. "Through The American Dream Academy, we want to provide people with the skills and tools to increase their chances of higher-quality, higher-paid employment and break down the barriers to achieving their American Dream."

For more information, please call 561-655-1919.

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 561 655 1919

 561 655 1740

 info@palmbeachunitedway.org

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