

**For Immediate Release
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Enrollment for Engineering Technology Degree Program Now Open

What: Engineering Technology Degree Program – Spring Registration. Enrollment is now open at four of Florida’s community colleges. Students interested in pursuing a career in manufacturing can register for the spring semester from now until early January.

This new comprehensive degree program focuses on a set of core classes that cover introductory computer aided drafting, electronics, instrumentation and testing, quality, safety, and processes and materials followed by a year of specialized study in one of 5 areas: Electronics, Quality, Advanced Manufacturing, Advanced Materials Technology, or Mechanical Design and Fabrication.

Industry sectors that hire students in Engineering Technology include:

- Medical Devices and Systems
- Electronic Devices
- Systems Engineering
- Metals and Plastics
- Food, Paper, Beverage and Cosmetics Processing
- Leisure and Entertainment
- Transportation and Logistics

Who: Brevard Community College St. Petersburg College
Central Florida Community College Pensacola Junior College

Why: Florida’s manufacturing industry is growing, yet there is a lack of qualified workers available to accommodate that growth. According to a 2005 National Association of Manufacturers’ Skills Gap Report, there is “a moderate to severe shortage of qualified, skilled production employees.”

To address that shortage, the Florida Advanced Technological Education (FLATE) Center, Florida Community Colleges, the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC), and the Florida Department of Education assessed the state of manufacturing education in Florida community colleges and has adjusted it to better meet the skilled workforce needs of the state’s modern manufacturing sector. The new A.S./ A.A.S. Degree Program is aligned with the national MSSC’s Portable Production Technician Certification.

When: Fall registration is now open at all four colleges. For more information on the Engineering Technology Associate Degree programs in Florida, contact Dr. Marilyn Barger, 813-259-6578.

Fast Facts

- There are more than 16,500 manufacturing businesses in Florida.
- Approximately 400,000 people in Florida are employed by manufacturers.
- The average annual salary for a Florida manufacturing employee is \$43,419, about 18 percent higher than the state average for all industries.
- In regional, statewide, and national surveys, manufacturers consistently cite a lack of qualified workers as a chief concern and business setback. In the National Association of Manufacturers' 2005 Skills Gap Report, 90 percent of the companies participating in the survey said they are experiencing "a moderate to severe shortage of qualified skilled production employees."
- In Florida, small businesses dominate the industry with about 72 percent of manufacturers employing fewer than 10 people each. Five percent of companies employ at least 100 workers.
- Florida ranks No. 13 in the nation in manufacturing jobs. California, Texas, and Ohio top the list respectively.
- Florida's manufacturing gross state product in 2004 was \$31 billion, which represents 2.2 percent of manufacturing in the U.S.
- The top five Florida counties based on the number of manufacturing businesses are Miami-Dade (2,654), Broward (1,836), Pinellas, (1,248), Palm Beach (1,116), and Hillsborough (1,034).
- The five Florida counties with the most manufacturing employees are Miami-Dade (48,676), Pinellas (37,981), Hillsborough (31,740), Broward (31,352), and Orange (30,258).
- In 2005, the top four manufacturing sectors in Florida ranked by monthly employment were computer and electronic products (51,064), transportation equipment (42,115), fabricated metal products (39,739), and food (31,691).

Sources: Agency for Workforce Innovation, Enterprise Florida, Inc., FLATE Center for Manufacturing Education, Manufacturing Association of Florida, Manufacturing Skill Standards Council, National Association of Manufacturers, Workforce Florida, Inc.

Important Contacts and Resources

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Story Ideas

- Borrowing from the '80s Oldsmobile sales campaign - "this is not your father's manufacturing degree." Gone are the days of Norma Ray. Today's manufacturing is technologically advanced and, until recently, students were unprepared to enter the changing workforce.

How has the degree program changed in order to better prepare students for a career in today's manufacturing field?

- When people think of Florida, visions of sunshine, sandy beaches, and Disney World come to mind. Not many know that Florida plays a big role in the manufacturing industry. Florida ranks 13th in the nation for manufacturing jobs, with more than 400,000 employed by manufacturers.

How are colleges preparing students seeking careers in engineering/manufacturing?

- Many Florida manufacturers are teaming up with Community Colleges to help students earn degrees that will give them a competitive edge in the workplace. Some offer tuition reimbursement, some pay for outright for courses, and others have college professors on site to teach classes after work.

How many manufacturers are making such offerings and how can students apply?