



# The Florida Advanced Technology Education Regional Center for Manufacturing Education, FL-ATE

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## FL-ATE OVERVIEW

The Florida Advanced Technology Education Regional Center for Manufacturing Education (FL-ATE) was funded by the ATE program of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the summer of 2004 after 2.5 years of planning. This regional center will focus on curriculum development, faculty professional development, and outreach activities focused on recruitment of students into Florida's two-year manufacturing and related technologies A.S., A.A.S., and certificate programs. FL-ATE is one of 30 funded ATE centers throughout the country focused on regional or national needs in traditional, redefined, or emerging advanced technologies.

### GOALS

**Goal 1:** Create an administrative region for FL-ATE that will have statewide recognition as an educational resource for manufacturing related curriculum, content and activities.

**Goal 2:** Create for statewide implementation an educational delivery System that contains curriculum, content, and technical programs to support high performance manufacturing within the region.

**Goal 3:** Adapt and/or create needed regional related manufacturing curriculum, content, activities and/or services that cannot be adopted from existing NSF, NSF-ATE and other appropriate sources.

**Goal 4:** Create a viable Manufacturing Education Awareness System (MEAS) that promotes manufacturing careers, honors outstanding manufacturing education champions and educators and that fosters industry supported academic scholarships in manufacturing education.

**Goal 5:** Create and implement a faculty development program that updates faculty technical and educational skills as they relate to best practices for modern high performance manufacturing in the State.

**Goal 6:** Create an exciting manufacturing and technology educational environment that encourages and facilitates under-represented student participation in partner programs and development activities.

One unique aspect of FL-ATE is that it has a strong partnership among three educational institutions. The Center has strong participant involvement at Hillsborough Community College (HCC) its administrative institution, St. Petersburg College (SPC), and the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida (USF), as well as at a number of very supportive affiliate community colleges. The region is defined by the state boundaries and the Center is challenged to meet the manufacturing and related technologies needs of a diverse industrial customer base that are, on average, small to medium in size with a skilled workforce. The manufacturing business sector in Florida employs more than the same sector in 37 other of the 50 states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts and Missouri. This paper shares the guiding principles and specific goals of this newly formed NSF-ATE Center. It also outlines how the Center plans to meet its multifaceted challenges.

[www.fl-ate.org](http://www.fl-ate.org)

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