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PCC Corporate College, BANNER represented at summit

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BRADENTON - The Corporate College at Polk Community College and the BANNER (Business Assistance Now for New Economy Results) Center for Manufacturing were represented at a recent Stakeholders Summit in Bradenton, which was jointly hosted by the Florida Advanced Technological Center (FLATE) and the Florida BANNER Center for Manufacturing.

Leading the Polk County delegation was Ernest Helms, a PCC Corporate College consultant who helped spearhead the formation of a BANNER Center in Polk County. A retired phosphate industry executive, Helms also is a member of both the FLATE and BANNER advisory councils.

Other Polk County summit delegates were Steve Hawkins and Eric Dickinson, both of RWD and adjunct professors at the PCC Corporate College; Ruly Lopez of Rockwell Automation, who also serves as a PCC Corporate College adjunct professor; and Steve Kullberg, operations manager of Lake Wales-based Florida's Natural and a member of both the FLATE and BANNER advisory committees.

The summit, which attracted industry leaders, educators and representatives of local economic and workforce development boards from throughout Florida, was held at headquarters of Tropicana in Bradenton.

"The summit served as a constructive example of the unselfish give back of business, education and agency partners who are dedicated to expanding workforce education and knowledge in an effort to train people for meaningful and skilled occupations to keep our state and nation globally competitive," Helms said.

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