



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The 2008 Industry Honors and Professional Recognition Program

FLATE the National Science Foundation-funded, Florida Advanced Technological Education Center presented three awards at the Manufacturers Association of Florida's 5th Annual Summit as part of the 2008 Industry Honors and Professional Recognition program.

The awards reflect FLATE's commitment to recognize educators and industry colleagues who have made significant strides in promoting excellence in educating and training today's technology workforce. The awards were presented on Nov. 5, during the President's banquet at the MAF Summit in Jacksonville, Fla., and recognize three key areas of importance – secondary education, post-secondary education, and industry distinguished service.

Gil Burlew received the Manufacturing Secondary Educator of the Year award. Burlew leads the pre-engineering and manufacturing career academy at Braden River High School located in Bradenton, Fla. He says the best way to attract students to manufacturing is to expose them to the real world of high-tech manufacturing. He adds, "There is an avenue out there that is still untouched and manufacturing is no longer the sweat-shop environment."

(more)

1st add/FLATE Awards

Likewise, Ed Niespodziany, Ph.D. was the recipient of the Manufacturing Post-Secondary Educator of the Year award. He is an engineering technology professor at Central Florida Community College, in Ocala, Fla., and the program facilitator for the Quality specialization of the statewide A.S. degree in Engineering Technology. Niespodziany says knowledge and skill are centerpieces of today's high-tech manufacturing, and the best way to promote STEM education is to "make learning fun." He points to post-secondary education as a time for students to not only gain advanced technical skills, but to also mature into responsible adults.

The Industry Distinguished Service award was bestowed on Anthony Fedd. In addition to his career as the Site Director of two BASF facilities in north Florida, Fedd is a relentless supporter of career and technology education throughout Florida. As one of the leading voices in Florida's manufacturing sector, Fedd has represented manufacturers before House and Senate committees, chaired the Manufacturers Association of Florida's Workforce and Education committee, served on the Workforce Plus Board of Directors, and helped to found the Capital Region Manufacturers Association. Against mounting global competition, Fedd advises manufacturers to invest in a skilled workforce, for applying automation and advanced manufacturing practices, managing operating costs efficiently, and to take advantage of technology in improving and creating new products, services and solutions.

FLATE is a National Science Foundation center, committed to ensuring that Florida has a well prepared workforce for manufacturing and related technologies. Created in 2004, it is one of 36 centers in the United States focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education to meet the needs of American advanced-technology industries. For more information visit www.fl-ate.org/awards, or email roe@fl-ate.org

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