



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT

Exploring strategies to create a skilled workforce for the knowledge economy

FLATE and the Banner Center for Manufacturing hosted a joint “Stakeholders Summit” to explore strategies for creating a skilled workforce for the knowledge economy. The summit was held in conjunction with the FLATE National Visiting Committee (NVC) meeting, and was held at Tropicana, in Bradenton, Fla.

The primary purpose of the summit was to identify the key components of an organization that addresses the workforce needs of Florida’s manufacturers and engineering technology companies. Participants were led in facilitated discussions, brainstormed ideas, and developed strategies addressing the workforce development and educational needs of manufacturers and high-tech companies in the state. The topics served as a basis to discuss long-range sustainability issues for FLATE and the Banner Center for Manufacturing.

(more)

1st add Stakeholders Summit

Core participants of the Summit comprised of industry leaders, educators, and representatives from local economic and workforce development agencies. They included: members of FLATE's NVC, Industrial Advisory Committee, as well as the Banner Center's Banner Advisory Council. Don Gugliuzza, managing director of Mileo and Associates Inc. in Bradenton said, "This collective intellect helped energize the discussion and workforce improvement ideas. As a facilitator and a participant of the Summit, the State of Florida will benefit immeasurably from this effort."

Results from the Summit include: recommendations for increased outreach, continued collaboration with the academic and workforce systems, the elimination of redundancies created by having two separate organizations (FLATE and Banner), and the need for long-term funding strategies that extend beyond the existing grant cycles. The next step for implementation of these results is the formation of a joint working group to develop an idealized organizational structure to meet these workforce education and development needs.

Ernie Helms, a volunteer and senior manufacturing executive from Polk County said, "The summit served as a constructive example of the unselfish give-back of business, education and agency partners dedicated to improve the likelihood for employers throughout Florida to expand workforce-education and knowledge, retain meaningful and skilled occupations, and stay globally competitive." He added, "Tallahassee needs to recognize this effort and do all it can to help the cause."

(more)

2nd add Stakeholders Summit

Prior to the Summit, participants had the opportunity to tour Tropicana's manufacturing facility in Bradenton. For input to the working group or to get involved, please contact Dr. Eric Roe at eroe@hccfl.edu or 813.259.6579.'

***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*

***Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing** is a Workforce Florida-funded statewide resource center. It is comprised of a consortium of manufacturing companies, community colleges, workforce investment boards, regional manufacturers associations, and economic development organizations throughout the state of Florida. Since its inception in August 2006, the Center has been a pioneer in determining manufacturing workforce needs and linking secondary academies, technical school programs, community college degree programs, and entry-level/incumbent worker training with the national Manufacturing Skill Standards Council's Certified Production Technician certification. The certification has been crucial in providing curriculum and training to sustain Florida's diverse manufacturing industries, and is industry-defined and portable across all manufacturing sectors. For more information, visit www.banner-mfg.org.*

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