



Florida Advanced Technological Education Center

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EQUIPMENT GRANTS SUPPORT HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING PROGRAMS

FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center) the National Science Foundation center of excellence in high-tech manufacturing located at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon will award \$240,000 in grants to support advanced manufacturing programs in community colleges across Florida. In 2009 FLATE awarded \$30,000 each to Brevard Community College and Central Florida Community College. This year FLATE awarded \$30,000 to St. Petersburg College, Hillsborough Community College and the State College of Florida.

Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE said the grant supports an important aspect of technical education. It will “enable students to engage in hands-on activities with real industrial tools.” The grants will be awarded over the current grant 3-year cycle, and is part of an effort to support community colleges that have adopted the statewide Engineering Technology (ET) degree created by FLATE.

(more)

First add Equipment Grants

Brad Jenkins, program director for the engineering technology degree at St. Petersburg College affirms “the lab component will give students first-hand knowledge and skills to operate equipments that are used in real-world settings.” Indeed the upgrade will have a positive impact on students like Alejandro Paradelo—a sophomore enrolled in the ET program at St. Petersburg College. “The lab experience coincides with everything I learnt in class, and sharpens my understanding of circuitry and electronics testing” Pardelo said.

The ET degree is a cohesive, comprehensive program that focuses on a set of core classes that cover introductory computer-aided drafting, electronics, instrumentation and testing, processes and materials, quality and safety. These core skills align with the national Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician certification. The ET Core coupled with a second year degree specialization prepares students for jobs in manufacturing and high-technology industries. Since its implementation in 2007, the degree has been adopted by ten community colleges across Florida.

For more information about FLATE’s equipment grants contact Dr. Marilyn Barger at 813.259.6578/barger@fl-ate.org, or visit www.madeinflorida.org/ET_Degree.

FLATE is a National Science Foundation Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of 36 Advanced Technological Education Centers in the United States funded by the National Science Foundation focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information visit www.fl-ate.org.

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