

**FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for MANUFACTURING EDUCATION**

Contact: Dr. Eric Roe
Tel: 813.259.6579
email: roe@fl-ate.org

FOR RELEASE ON Nov. 5, 2007

“Awardees for the 2007 Industry Honors and Professional Recognition Program”

Today FLATE the National Science Foundation-funded, Florida Advanced Technological Education Center for Manufacturing Education presented the *2007 Manufacturers’ Industry Honors and Professional Recognitions* at the Manufacturers Association of Florida Annual Summit in Lake Mary, Florida.

This year’s awards—the first of its kind — mirrors three key areas in manufacturing and manufacturing education. The awards represent FLATE’s commitment to recognize educators and industry colleagues. Additionally, each of the recipients has made significant strides in promoting excellence in education and training of today’s technology workforce.

Ted Norman has been bestowed with the **Manufacturing Post-Secondary Educator-of-the-Year Award**. Norman is the instructor and program chair of the Manufacturing Academy at Treasure Coast High School in St. Lucie County. He is also a U.S. Navy veteran and entrepreneur who has brought his passion to education. Norman is credited with creating a rigorous and relevant manufacturing career academy at TCHS and has led his students to State and National competitions in the SkillsUSA manufacturing competitions. He was a panelist at the 2006 MAF (Manufacturers Association of Florida) Manufacturers Summit and played a pivotal role in implementing a national certification MSSC’s Production Technician Certification into his academic program.

(more)

The recipient for the **Manufacturing Secondary Educator-of-the-Year Award** is Meer Almeer. Almeer is an assistant professor of electronics at Brevard Community College. He has been a long time supporter of manufacturing initiatives for curriculum reform. He is a participant at SpaceTEC: an NSF ATE (National Science Foundation - Advanced Technological Education) National Center and has played a pivotal role in implementing the new A.S (Associate in Science) degree in Engineering Technology at BCC. This degree and its specializations allow BCC to meet the demands of industry for a high-skill workforce for today's advanced manufacturing environment.

Finally, the **FLATE Industry Distinguished Service Award** was awarded to Steve Lezman of PepsiCo/Tropicana. Steve is the Director of Governmental Affairs at Tropicana in Bradenton. With Steve's leadership, Tropicana has embraced Career and Technical Education reform and promotion of the State of Florida – benefiting all manufacturers, not just Tropicana. Specifically, Tropicana was a major sponsor for the 2006 and 2007 manufacturing advertorials in Florida Trend NEXT magazine. These career guidance advertorials were distributed to more than 750,000 high school students throughout Florida each year. Additionally, Lezman also played an instrumental role in the creation of the “Made in Florida – Up Close Tropicana” video to give students an inside look at Tropicana's processes and people. He is a leader in manufacturing workforce and education reform to the Florida Legislature and serves on the Board of Directors of the Manufacturers Association of Florida.

FLATE (Florida - Advanced Technological Education) Center for Manufacturing Education is a National Science Foundation center, committed to ensuring that Florida manufacturing has a well prepared workforce.

(more)

It advances this mission through three principal initiatives: 1) promotion of technologically oriented manufacturing and technology careers to middle and secondary school students, 2) professional development of teachers throughout the K-16 educational system, 3) reform and realignment of the curriculum that defines Florida's academic programs related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, it is one of 33 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, please visit: www.fl-ate.org