



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION CENTER

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Engineering Technology Support Specialist at St. Petersburg College

Adam Palermo, a sophomore at St. Petersburg College, is the first student in Florida to earn the Engineering Technology Support Specialist college certificate. Palermo completed the core requirements of the program this past summer with a 4.0 GPA, and is poised to graduate in May 2009 with an A.S. (Associate of Science) degree in Engineering Technology. Brad Jenkins, program director and instructor at SPC said “Palermo is a hardworking student. He is technically savvy, enjoys electronics, and will be an excellent technician.”

Palermo is passionate about manufacturing, and encourages other students to consider educational and career pathways in manufacturing. He says manufacturing is a great starting point for a career as it offers many career and employment opportunities. “Manufacturing is a lot more complex than you think. It is interesting to observe the various processes involved in creating a product from conception to completion.” He says the metrology classes he took at SPC have proved extremely helpful in his current job. He added, “It has helped me identify each component part, what they’re made of and gain a deeper understanding about each of their functions in the manufacturing process.”

(more)

1st add/Engineering Technology Specialist

In addition to these achievements, Palermo is also focusing on earning additional certificates as an AutoCAD technician. He works as an electronic technician at a manufacturing company in Clearwater, and hopes to transfer to a four-year university to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

The Engineering Support Specialist Certificate is comprised of 18 credit hours of technical coursework and is the foundational core of the 60-credit hour associate of science degree in engineering technology. The certificate and degree prepares students for technical positions in modern manufacturing with specializations in engineering design, manufacturing processes and production, quality and product testing. For more information on the program, or to find colleges that offer the program visit www.madeinflorida.org/ET_Degree/index.htm.

About FLATE

FLATE is a National Science Foundation center based at Hillsborough Community College. It is committed to ensuring that Florida has a well prepared manufacturing workforce. 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 call 813.259.6579 or visit www.fl-ate.org.

About St. Petersburg College

St. Petersburg College was founded in 1927 as a two-year institution of higher learning. Known then as St. Petersburg Junior College, it provided high-quality, fully-accredited programs with credits that were fully transferable to four-year institutions. In 2001, the Florida Legislature passed legislation allowing the college to offer four-year degrees. In response, the college dropped the word “junior” from its name and became St. Petersburg College. Today, St. Petersburg College offers programs at learning sites in St. Petersburg, Seminole, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs and elsewhere. It also offers courses and degree programs online.