



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“INDUSTRY DAY” FOR PINELLAS COUNTY PRE-ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Bringing students out of the classroom into the world of modern manufacturing and engineering

Ninety-three students from East Lake High School’s engineering academy programs participated in tours of six different high-tech manufacturing facilities in the greater Tampa Bay area. The tours were conducted on May 15, as part of “Industry Day” initiated by the Career Technical Education Foundation (CTEF), located in Palm Harbor.

CTEF along with Industry Day partner FLATE, the National Science Foundation-funded Center for Advanced Technological Education, arranged three buses for 31 students to visit two industry host sites each. These six industry host sites: Coastal Caisson; Honeywell Corporation; Jabil Circuit; Micron Pharmaworks; Nielson Media Research; and Pall Aeropower opened their facilities and set-up special employee presentations for the students. During the tours, students got a first-hand look at high-tech manufacturing operations, learned about the importance and application of science and mathematics in their daily life, and the educational pathways needed to take advantage of those careers.

(more)

1st add Industry Day

As part of the Industry day experience, FLATE also provided students with information on statewide educational and career opportunities in modern manufacturing, and advised students to take advantage of the resources posted on the “Made in Florida” website. Dave Gula, FLATE’s outreach manager said “we want to give all students the opportunity to experience a real-world view of today’s manufacturing in Florida.”

Industry Day punctuated a comprehensive effort to generate interest in educational and career pathways in engineering, manufacturing, technical education, and to integrate theoretical as well as practical experience into the educational experience. Paul Wahnish, president of CTEF, who is the primary driving force behind this initiative, said “taking 15-16 year old students into a business environment with the promise of an opportunity for an internship is a paradigm shift for technical education.”

Following the tours, Duane Hume, supervisor for STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Education at the Florida Department of Education said, “Your efforts to bring real world experiences into your STEM classroom are to be commended.” He added “Applying math and science skills to problem-solving exercises in the classroom speaks volumes about the relevance of STEM programs, but continuing that bridge of relevance into a working environment provides a connection for students that simply cannot be replicated in the classroom.”

(more)

2nd add Industry Day

***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*

***Career Technical Education Foundation** is non-profit corporation located in Palm Harbor, Fla. The primary function of the organization is to work with and influence the local educational system through community and industry partnerships. The Foundation serves as a means to drive a collaborative effort between schools and businesses, to encourage educational and career opportunities, and provide companies in the region better trained and prepared workers. For more information visit www.careertechedfoundation.org*

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