



Florida Advanced Technological Education Center

**NEWS** from  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2010 HI-TECH Innovative Program award Presented to Florida Advanced Technological Education at HCC in Brandon**

FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center)—the National Science Foundation Center for excellence in high-tech manufacturing at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon will receive the 2010 HI-TECH Innovative Program award. The award will be presented on July 28 at the High Impact Technology Exchange Conference (HI-TEC) in Orlando, Fla., and recognizes a team of advanced technology education professionals that have designed and implemented a significant innovation, leading to a positive impact on student enrollment, retention, or advanced technology education. The award also represents HI-TEC's commitment to serving the advanced technology education community and outstanding programs that strive toward the same goal by increasing student success in technology programs.

Accepting the award will be Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE—a national leader in reforming technical education to meet the needs of advanced manufacturers in Florida. FLATE has been on the cutting edge of building partnerships with industry, education, and the public workforce investment system to develop advanced manufacturing and engineering technology career pathways. These pathways integrate the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System with an academic program of study to ensure students graduate with nationally portable, third-party-validated credentials with real value in the workplace.

(MORE)

## **1<sup>st</sup> add 2010 HI-TECH Innovative Program award**

FLATE's leadership team, Dr. Barger, Bradley Jenkins of St. Petersburg College, and Dr. Richard Gilbert of the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida working together with state and community colleges and the Florida Department of Education developed a model Engineering Technology (ET) Associate of Science Degree program that is sensitive to both workforce and academic student needs. FLATE crafted the first-of-its-kind statewide articulation of college credit for a nationally recognized industry certification allowing incumbent workers to earn 15 credit hours when they hold a current credential.

“From a workforce perspective, a common core curriculum prepares students for a national industry credential. From an academic perspective, it provides a unified statewide, articulated engineering technology degree” Barger said. The flexible degree offers 8 different specializations for the second-year curriculum allowing colleges to focus on the technologies important to their local stakeholders. The engineering technology A.S./A.A.S. degree in Florida has been adopted and implemented by 10 colleges since its approval in December 2007. To support the ET Degree, FLATE created and is deploying a unified marketing campaign that provides a single message for high-technology industry employers as well as potential students throughout Florida.

**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](http://www.fl-ate.org)

The **High Impact Technology Exchange Conference** ([www.highimpact-tec.org](http://www.highimpact-tec.org)) is produced by a consortium of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education centers and projects and is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and contributions from corporate and industry partners. For more information contact Christine Dossey, HI-TEC Public Relations at [cdossey@cord.org](mailto:cdossey@cord.org)/254-772-8756, extension 316.

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