



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE

NEWS from
FLATE
10414 E. Columbus Dr.
Tampa, FL 33619

Marilyn Barger
Executive Director
Tel: (813) 259.6577
email: barger@fl-ate.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 BAMA Manufacturing Scholarships

Ensuring a Pathway for a Promising Future in STEM Education

Bay Area Manufacturers Association recently awarded scholarships to two Tampa Bay graduating seniors. The students were recognized as the 2009 BAMA Scholarship winners during the monthly BAMA meeting on June 25 at the Marriott Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla. Rebecca Herrin and Lauren Tracy each won a \$1000 scholarship from BAMA, and will start at the University of Florida this Fall. Additionally a \$500 scholarship for PTEC was also announced.

John Boyle, vice president of BAMA and human resources manager at Hunter Douglas Southeast in Pinellas Park, Fla. said “These scholarships are an essential support mechanism and a vehicle for BAMA to encourage students to pursue 2-4 year degrees in manufacturing or related technical field.” They are part of an 18-year tradition, and are awarded to academically gifted as well as economically disadvantaged college freshman and/or high school seniors. These scholarships give students the opportunity to focus on educational rather than financial challenges. “The biggest thing is recognition, and groups like BAMA are committed to building the education and future skill-set of our youth,” Boyle said.

(more)

1st add Manufacturing Scholarships

In addition to the scholarships, BAMA has also supported other parallel initiatives targeted to strengthen manufacturing and STEM education in Florida by supporting scholarships to FLATE's summer robotics program for middle school students at Hillsborough Community College-Brandon. Nearly 60 campers are scheduled to attend the three sessions scheduled in July and August. These camps are designed to educate middle school students about robotics and its application in modern manufacturing operations, get them excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and instill its' importance in our everyday lives.

Through these activities, it is hoped students will consider STEM-related career and educational pathways. "We are working hard to solidify our partnership with FLATE. What they do by promoting manufacturing is essential to the industry in Florida, and I am glad FLATE is spearheading these initiatives for our students," Boyle said.

Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE states such partnerships provide a highly visible reality check for students – that there are real companies right in their neighborhoods with exciting, high paying and satisfying careers. She added "FLATE's Regional Manufacturing Associations like BAMA are key partners in our efforts to promote manufacturing and all STEM-related career and educational pathways through our "Made in Florida" outreach campaign." For more information about FLATE, or scholarship recipients contact Dr. Marilyn Barger at 813.259.6577/barger@fl-ate.org.

(more)

2nd add Manufacturing Scholarships

FLATE is a NSF 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 only 36 NSF Advanced Technological Education Centers 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

BAMA provides Tampa Bay's manufacturing community with quality educational and training programs, events with high take-away value, and forums for networking and information exchange. Established in 1954, the Bay Area Manufacturers Association was organized to serve the collective needs of the growing Tampa Bay manufacturing community. For more information visit www.bama-fl.org

#####