

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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Summer Robotics Workshop at Hillsborough Community College”

Hillsborough Community College and FLATE have partnered with First Step Robotics, Inc., to offer a 5-day summer robotics workshop at the HCC, Brandon Campus. This week-long summer activity, previously attended by hundreds of students throughout the West Central region of Florida, is scheduled for June 25-29, 2007. Designed primarily for students grades 3 through 8, the workshop provides an exciting opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge in robotics, basic physics, science, mathematics, technology, and modern manufacturing.

During the workshop, each student will be given a kit to design and build their own robot. The robots will not only be used as a tool for teaching, but will also be used to complete tasks like an obstacle course on the final day. The curriculum for the workshop was written and designed by J. Paul Wahnish, SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers), a member of the faculty and a coach at East Lake High School, assisted by Stephanie Sims, a University of Florida Engineering Graduate and Ron Hartman, Honeywell Systems Engineer for Space Guidance and Navigational Products.

The workshop also features presentations by local manufacturers, college faculty and a tour of local manufacturing site. During the session, no more than 8 students will be assigned to a mentor, with a background in robotics, physics and math. All mentors and adult session supervisors have been thoroughly investigated and meet the criteria for volunteer guidelines defined by one or more area school districts.

Workshop sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., each week day. Tuition per child is \$295, which includes a start-up kit with parts for a robot, snacks and a tee shirt. For more information please contact Paul Wahnish at 407.491.0903 or David Gula at 813.259.6581 or 863.324.7803.

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. 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 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

Hillsborough Community College – Brandon campus serves approximately 6800 students per semester and is home to the college's manufacturing related academic programs as well as FLATE and the Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing. Here students can learn the high-tech skills needed in modern manufacturing, such as controls, hydraulics, pneumatics, robotics, computer aided drafting, and automation. District wide, Hillsborough Community College serves more than 40,000 students on campuses on Dale Mabry Highway and in Ybor City, Plant City and Brandon. HCC also serves students at learning centers on MacDill Air Force Base and in Ruskin. HCC was the recipient of the 2006 Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Equity award. HCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. For more information, please visit: www.hccfl.edu.