



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

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

Eric Roe, Ph.D.
Director
Tel: (813) 259.6579
email: roe@fl-ate.org

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Florida SkillsUSA 2008 State Championship: Ensuring a Skilled American Workforce

FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education) Center for Manufacturing is partnering with Tropicana to host modern manufacturing competitions at the 2008 Florida SkillsUSA State Championships.

The two-day competition will be held April 29-30 at the Anthony Rossi training center at Tropicana's headquarters in Bradenton, Fla. The SkillsUSA event represents a culmination of partnerships between students, teachers, and industry working to ensure today's students have the leadership and technical skills needed to succeed in the global marketplace.

Teams of middle and high school students across Florida will be competing for an opportunity to advance to the national championships which will be held in Kansas City, in June.

Two contests will be held for modern manufacturing. The "automated manufacturing technology" event evaluates teams on their usage of computer-aided drafting/design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM), and computer numerical controlled machining (CNC). CAD operators construct the geometric part; CAM operators generate the tools paths, and the CNC operator sets up and machines the part.

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SKILLSUSA MANUFACTURING CHAMPIONSHIP/2

The “robotics and automation technology” event evaluates teams on modern control systems. It requires teams to demonstrate operation of a 5-axis servo-robot, along with a set of sensors and motorized devices to resolve a simulated production process problem. This requires contestants to set up a robotic work cell along with a flow chart indicating the sequence of operation. Each team will be judged on efficiency, speed and teamwork.

For the automated manufacturing technology event, teams will use Denford Mills and Simulations. For the robotics and automation technology event, teams will use Amatrol Robotics Systems. Jaeger Corporation will provide the equipment and simulation software to support team competitions for both events.

FLATE is a National Science Foundation center, committed to ensuring that Florida has a well prepared 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 visit www.fl-ate.org

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