



## Celebrating Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month!

In Florida, all 67 school districts, 28 Florida colleges and 48 technical colleges/centers offer high-quality CTE coursework, certifications, skills-based education, and degrees. FLATE, with the Florida Department of Education and FloridaMakes, continues to support quality CTE programs, providing resources for educators, students, and industry. To help amplify the impact of CTE Month, *Get There*, Florida's workforce education initiative, has provided a [Comprehensive Toolkit that includes Myths & Facts about CTE, Social Media content, press releases and more](#). Click on 'download all CTE Month Assets' for all graphics and ready-made copy.

**MYTH:**  
CTE programs only lead to low-paying jobs.

**FACT:**  
Many CTE pathways prepare students for high-demand industries, such as manufacturing and engineering.



## Manufacturers Connect with Florida's Students through Xello

The Florida Department of Education has launched its statewide Work-Based Learning (WBL) network in Xello.

Businesses can now create **FREE** company profiles and list work-based learning opportunities to connect with Florida's K-12 and adult education students. Register your business by completing a [one-minute form](#).

Businesses can also schedule a meeting with a Xello WBL specialist to learn how this network can benefit your company: [Schedule Here](#)

WORK-BASED LEARNING

### Connecting Florida's businesses with tomorrow's workforce

Florida is bridging the gap between businesses looking to nurture future talent and high school students eager to develop workplace skills early. Are you interested in participating in a work-based learning program? Whether you're a company looking to introduce new opportunities or an individual eager to make a difference, we're here to help.

Workplace tours

Apprenticeships

Guest lectures

Job shadowing & more!

Connect Today

## Industry Opportunity to Give Input for CTE Programs February 24 - 1PM - 2:30PM ET (Virtual)

Educators, please share with your industry contacts! The Florida Department of Education is seeking employer input on career readiness skills required in high school, technical college, and state college Career and Technical Education Programs. Join online to react to proposals and weigh in on topics like helping students prepare to apply to, succeed in,

and advance within job fields you oversee.

Input will help shape the career preparation received through Florida public education.

## Shape Florida's **WORKFORCE** Share Your Insights on Career Readiness Skills!

Monday, February 24, 2025

1:00 - 2:30 pm EST

Online Meeting [REGISTER NOW](#)

The Florida Department of Education is seeking employer input on career readiness skills required in high school, technical college, and state college Career and Technical Education Programs. Join online to react to proposals and weigh in on topics like helping students prepare to apply to, succeed in, and advance within job fields you oversee.

Your input is valued and will help shape the career preparation received through Florida public education. Register to attend here: <https://goopenfla.com/edmeeting/register/job11m1725n8K1DMjue25a>



[Register Here](#)

## FLATE ET Program Updates

### Welcome to Joe Otte, New ET Faculty Gulf Coast State College

Joe comes to Gulf Coast State College from Ivy Tech Community College where he served as the Dean in the School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering, and Applied Science and Department Chair of AART/DESN/INDT, and MPRO. He completed a MEd from Indiana State University in 2019 and also earned a BS in Technology and Engineering Education from Indiana State University in 2011 where he was awarded Graduate of the Year in his respective program. Joe also earned an AAS from Ivy Tech Community College in Design Technology. Prior to education, he worked as a Manufacturing Engineer for 14 years in the Automotive and Aerospace industries. Mr. Otte is a certified instructor for Siemens, Fanuc, MSSC, Motoman, NC3, SACA, and is an Indiana licensed teacher in Engineering/Technology, Industrial Technology, and Precision Machining (grades 6-12). Wife (Nicole) and children (Faith and Chase) are still living in Indiana as both children graduate college and high school this year. They will maintain a residence in Indiana and plan to purchase in Florida in the coming months. It was always a plan to purchase a home in Florida, that process was just sped up when Joe came to GCSC. In addition, they have been a host family for exchange students through Rotary Youth Exchange and have daughters in three different countries. Two fur babies include Bella, a labradoodle and Peaches, a Goldendoodle who both came to the family post-COVID. In his free time, which is not much, Joe has an obsession with the outdoors!



### Palm Beach State College Opens New Center for Engineering Technology at Boca Raton Campus

Palm Beach State College opened The Center for Engineering Technology on its Boca Raton campus in November 2024. The 3,600-foot center is equipped with state-of-the-art robotics and automation systems and will support 30 different classes. The center was made possible thanks to the generous support of PBSC's longstanding industry partners, Lockheed Martin-Sikorsky and Pratt & Whitney. In addition to generously providing funding for the new center, PBSC's engineering industry partners support the College by offering students paid internships



which often result in a full-time job after graduation. Some employers such as SV



Microwave will even sponsor full-time employees who want to continue to get their bachelor's degree.

[Read full article](#)

## Upcoming Events



### *FLATE Webinar Series*

**February 28, 2025 10 AM - 11 AM ET**

*Using Python for Machine Learning in Manufacturing*

**March 28, 2025 10 AM - 11 AM EDT**

*A Case Study in Machine Learning (ML) Using  
Transfer Learning Models*

**April 9, 2024 10 AM - 11 AM EDT**

*Navigating a Multi-Generational Workforce*



**[Register Now](#)**



**FORUM**  
on Engineering Technology

April 3 - 8:30AM - 4PM  
April 4 - 8:30AM-1PM

**PHSC**  
PASCO-HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

Pasco Hernando State College  
New Port Richey Campus  
10230 Ridge Rd, Room 151  
New Port Richey, FL

[Register Now](#)

## HI-TEC 2025 - Call for Proposals

The 2025 HI-TEC Conference will be held July 21-24 in Minneapolis. There are three opportunities to present:

- Main Conference Breakout Sessions will take place Wednesday & Thursday, July 23-24
- Poster Sessions will be featured in the Exhibit Hall on Wednesday July 23.

Submission due date Feb 28.



# News & Opportunities

## High School Teachers: Paid Summer Internship Program Texas A&M University - June 2 - July 11, 2025

Texas A&M University will be hosting a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Teachers (RET) site from June 2 to July 11, 2025. This site will provide opportunities for high school teachers involved in Career and Technical Education (CTE) to engage in research and curriculum development related to machine learning and smart system design. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about Machine Learning (a type of AI) and Smart System Design through a workshop, build a smart device with support from a graduate student and faculty mentor, learn about related career paths from Industry speakers, and develop a learning module for classroom teaching.



Research Experiences for  
High School Teachers in  
Machine Learning and Smart System Design



Texas A&M University, College Station, TX  
June 2-July 11, 2025  
<http://people.tamu.edu/~tush/ret/>

Texas A&M University will be hosting a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) site from June 2 to July 11, 2025. This site will provide opportunities for high school teachers involved in Career and Technical Education (CTE) to engage in research and curriculum development related to machine learning and smart system design. Activities will include a 6-week summer program at Texas A&M University and continuing collaboration throughout the following academic year. During the summer, participants will:

- engage in a research project with a faculty mentors;
- attend special topic presentations and site tours; and
- develop an instructional module to teach a topic related to their research.

During the following academic year, participants will:

- implement their instructional modules in the classroom and assess learning outcomes;
- attend a 3-day workshop to present results, share materials, and evaluate the program.

### Stipend

Each participant will receive a stipend of \$3000/week for participation in the six-week summer program and \$1500 upon completion of the implementation and evaluation activities during the following academic year. Lodging, meal and travel expenses are **not** included. The program can assist participants in finding dormitory-style housing arrangements if requested on the application. Participants who present their work at an appropriate research or educational conference after completing the program will receive up to \$1000 for travel expenses.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for participation in the RET program, teachers should be currently teaching in one or more of the following areas: Energy; Information Technology; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; and Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics. Schools are encouraged to send at least two faculty members to the program.

Participants will be selected based on criteria such as interest in research and in developing instructional modules for classroom use, and recommendations by their principals and/or department heads. Instructors from institutions with high percentages of minority and socio-economically disadvantaged students are encouraged to apply. Once accepted, participants may continue their participation in the program for two consecutive years.

### How to Apply

Applications are available at: <http://people.tamu.edu/~tush/ret/about.html>. The application due date is Friday, Feb. 21, 2025. Notifications about acceptances will be sent out in late March. If you have questions, please contact the site director, Professor Sheng-Jen ("Tony") Hsieh at [tshieh@tamu.edu](mailto:tshieh@tamu.edu)

Each participant will receive a stipend of \$1000/week for participation in the six-week summer program and \$1500 upon completion of the implementation and evaluation activities during the following academic year. Lodging, meal and travel expenses are not included. The program can assist participants in finding dormitory-style housing arrangements if requested on the application. Participants who present their work at an appropriate research or educational conference after completing the program will receive up to \$1000 for travel expenses.

Apply by February 21

## Computer Vision & Industry 4.0 Workshop Lone Star College, Houston, TX - February 28



Gain valuable insights into computer vision models, explore real world applications, and learn how to integrate them into Two-Year College curricula.

\$500 stipends will be awarded to workshop attendees. Must be two-year faculty who are not Lone Star College employees.

Click here to apply

AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation  
Training for Post-Secondary & Secondary Educators  
May 20-21 & June 11-12 | Owensboro, KY



This professional development for post-secondary and secondary educators will provide hands-on training in Industry 4.0 technologies that these instructors can take back to their classrooms as they teach students who are preparing to enter manufacturing careers.

#### Sessions Include:

- Industry 4.0 concepts and training
- Competency based education
- Virtual reality
- Using these tools in the classroom
- Funding resources

Travel assistance and stipend for completing the program will be available. Attendees will also gain access to virtual monthly community-of-practice sessions featuring industry partners, peers, and best practices.



**AMTEC<sup>®</sup>**  
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNICAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

## INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRY 4.0 INNOVATION

Choose from multiple dates to attend one of the two day trainings (more dates will be announced):

May 20-21, 2025    June 10-11, 2025

Owensboro, Kentucky

Join us for a two day training with hands-on programs featuring nationally recognized trainers and equipment focusing on Industry 4.0 skills!

**Sessions Include:**

- Industry 4.0 concepts and training
- Competency based education
- Virtual reality
- Using these tools in the classroom
- Funding resources

**Bonus: Travel assistance and stipend for completing the program will be available.** You will also gain access to virtual monthly community-of-practice sessions featuring industry partners, peers, and best practices. Please contact us at 270-686-4410 or email [cadie.underwood@kctcs.edu](mailto:cadie.underwood@kctcs.edu) for more information and questions.

**To receive updates on registration and additional training dates, scan the QR code with your phone and complete the form.**

Thank you to our partners!

**zSpace**

**MST**  
Multi-Skill Training SERVICES

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OCTC is an equal opportunity employer and education institution. 2/2025

[Click here to apply](#)

## 2025 Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) Open for Submissions



**Advancing Student Innovation & Impact**

### 2025 COMMUNITY COLLEGE INNOVATION CHALLENGE

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
This Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

NSF

A group of people standing in front of a building, likely a community college or university.

The Community College Innovation Challenge (CCIC) is led by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is a national competition where community college student teams, working with a faculty or administrator mentor, use science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to innovate solutions to real-world problems; participate in an Innovation Boot Camp; and compete for cash awards. AACC is pleased to announce that planning is underway to hold the Innovation Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. on June 9-12, 2025—and full travel support will be provided to the finalist teams to attend.

[How to Enter](#)

## Resources

### New "Manufacturing in America" Infographic

NIST-MEP has released this "Manufacturing in America" infographic which highlights how manufacturing contributes to our nation's economy, employment, and



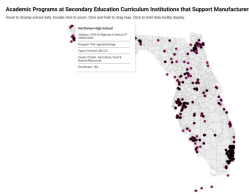
innovation and why the U.S. remains a manufacturing powerhouse.

NIST MEP's mission is to enhance the productivity and technological performance of U.S. manufacturing. The MEP National Network includes the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP) and the 51 MEP Centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the MEP Advisory Board, MEP Center boards, and the Foundation for Manufacturing Excellence, as well as over 1,440 trusted advisors and experts at approximately 460 MEP service locations, providing any U.S. manufacturer with access to resources they need to succeed. This includes FloridaMakes, and FLATE, since we're part of FloridaMakes!

This infographic can help raise awareness of the significant impacts of American manufacturing, including adding trillions of dollars to the economy, employing millions of people, performing more than half of all business research and development in the U.S., and offering higher average annual wages than other industries.

Click here to download

## FLATE Resources



**FLATE's Manufacturing Matters Dashboard**  
A tool highlighting manufacturing education, careers, industry, and their impact on Florida's economy.

Manufacturing Matters Dashboard

## FLATE Webinar Series - Watch on Demand

- Data Analytics in Manufacturing (November 2024)
- Necessary Skills Now: Resources for Integrating Employability Skills into Technical Programs (October 2024)
- Edge Computing: A Feasible & Integrated Approach to Collecting System Data
- A Universal Programming Approach for any make of Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs)
- Best Practices for your CNC Course or Program
- Overview of AI in Manufacturing
- Overview of Teaching PLCs





- Leveraging an Open Lab to Provide Greater Access for Students in your Manufacturing Program
- Developing Local Articulations to Increase Enrollment in College Programs
- How to Create Work-based Learning Opportunities
- Recruiting Strategies Best Practices
- Robots for AI and Industry 4.0 Training and Demo
- Creating Videos using Classroom Projects and Student Success Stories
- How to Increase Student Diversity in ET Programs
- How to Develop ET Dual Enrollment or Early College Programs
- Cybersecurity for Manufacturing Series (4-part)
- Overview of Teaching PLCs

View Webinars on Demand



[flate.org](http://flate.org)



[FLATE wiki](http://FLATE wiki)



[madeinflorida.org](http://madeinflorida.org)

## Florida Department of Education Resources



Florida's Workforce Education Initiative

With Career, Technical and Adult Education (CTAE), you can train for a better career quickly and affordably.



Apprenticeship programs are a proven training method benefiting job seekers and businesses.

### Check Out Our Previous Newsletters:

[Jan 2025 Focus](#) | [Dec 2024 Focus](#) | [Nov 2024 Focus](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)

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