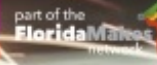


# FLATE FOCUS

June 2025



## Spotlight on our 2025 FLATE Award Winners



FAITE



## Congratulations to Judith A. Deeley, Ed.D. 2025 Distinguished Manufacturing Secondary Educator of the Year

Congratulations to Judith Deeley, Ed.D. for being a champion for all matters related to manufacturing and engineering technology education! Science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STE(A)M) education is a direct contributor to effective manufacturing education of today. For almost two decades, Dr. Deeley has made contributions to STE(A)M education that include:



- Leading high school (grades 9-12) programs in robotics and engineering achieving numerous industry certifications.
- Implementing engineering design-build competitions across land, air and sea categories.
- Coaching underwater robotics, drone Part 107, VEX and FIRST robotics with several teams and individuals winning regional, state, and national awards as well as world competitions.
- Implementing the SkillsUSA workplace essentials and technical standards competitions.
- Inspiring students to continue in the engineering fields that are geared towards

manufacturing whether they head to college, technical school, military or direct to career.

Dr. Deeley believes that manufacturing education is important for increasing the number of employees with the necessary technological skill level, teaching workplace essentials and expectations, and providing awareness of career opportunities.

[Read Full Article](#)

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### **Congratulations to Brian Bell, Ph.D. 2025 Distinguished Manufacturing Post-Secondary Educator of the Year**

Congratulations to Brian Bell, Ph.D., Lead Faculty for Biomedical Engineering at St. Petersburg College, for his contributions to promote manufacturing education! Dr. Bell teaches courses in engineering technology with a focus on biomedical engineering technology (also known as healthcare technology management). Brian has worked with biomedics, educators, and technicians to create content and resources for the biomedical engineering technology learning community. He developed a cutting-edge biomedical engineering technology program, including a new medical device design and prototyping certificate, through a National Science Foundation grant.



Dr. Bell believes that manufacturing education is essential for transforming economic and societal systems, driving innovation and addressing complex challenges, and that it equips individuals with the skills to develop cutting-edge technologies, including medical devices, that improve lives. Over the past 7 years, he has created a YouTube channel offering free educational resources in electronics, medical technology, and engineering, which has garnered 4.8 million viewers and over 20,000 subscribers. Brian has also delivered presentations on interactive resources such as VR in technician education, medical device STEM kits, and building biomedical programs, sharing his work at multiple conferences and online platforms. In 2023, he served as a [DoD STEM Ambassador](#), engaging with high school and college students locally.

[Read Full Article](#)

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### **Congratulations to Sophia Watson 2025 Distinguished Manufacturing Partner Service Award**

Congratulations to Sophia Watson, a seasoned leader in workforce development, currently driving statewide efforts at the Florida Semiconductor Institute (FSI)! At FSI, she has implemented a comprehensive strategy to enhance semiconductor workforce readiness, from early education awareness to the creation of new industry certifications. She also facilitates collaboration across industry and education to align efforts and meet the growing demand for skilled workers in advanced manufacturing.



In 2013, as then-Supervisor of Technical and Adult Education, Sophia introduced the Certified Production Technician (CPT) course to Hernando Adult Postsecondary Education, providing adult students for the first time with essential skills to enter the manufacturing



workforce. In 2015 she, along with her team, collaborated with the Iron Workers Union and local businesses to establish a thriving welding program for both secondary and postsecondary students, addressing industry needs and expanding career opportunities for students. She went on to establish Hernando County's first technical college, Wilton Simpson Technical College, with strong support from local businesses, legislators, and the community, launching over 20 new programs and securing over \$19 million in external funding.

In her current role at the Florida Semiconductor Institute (FSI), Mrs. Watson plays a pivotal role in coordinating Florida's manufacturing ecosystem. FSI's efforts focus on aligning industry, education, and workforce development initiatives to strengthen the state's readiness for emerging technologies, particularly in the semiconductor sector. The strength of Sophia Watson's leadership has been in fostering collaboration across institutions, businesses, and organizations, paving the way for a robust, future-ready workforce and a stronger manufacturing sector in Florida and beyond.

[Read Full Article](#)

## Other FLATE News

### Engineering Technology Faculty in Florida Registration is Open for Fall 2025 ET Forum



NORTHWEST FLORIDA  
STATE COLLEGE

September 11 - 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
September 12 - 8:30 AM-1 PM

Northwest Florida State College  
100 College Blvd. East  
Niceville, FL

[Register here](#)

### FLATE Engineering Technology (ET) Mentorship Meeting: Fostering Innovation in Tomorrow's Manufacturing and ET Educators

Are you new to teaching an engineering or related manufacturing program in Florida? Are you a veteran teacher who would like to help mentor new educators?

Join us for the FLATE ET Mentorship Meeting:  
Third Tuesday of every month  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM




In an ever-evolving technological landscape, the need for skilled and innovative engineering faculty and teachers is paramount. FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center) plays a crucial role in addressing this need by fostering strong connections between education and industry. This monthly Mentorship Meeting is a cornerstone of this effort, providing an invaluable platform for new and experienced

manufacturing and ET teachers and faculty to collaborate, share knowledge, and cultivate future talent.

[Register here](#)

## Florida's Engineering Technology AS Degree: Adding Students to the Manufacturing Workforce

A recent report from the *College Futures Foundation* and *HEA Group* found that the "return on investment" of a college degree was highest in computer science, engineering and healthcare. Florida's Associate in Science (AS) Engineering Technology (ET) Program Instructors report frequently that students in their programs are hired by Florida's manufacturers, often before they complete the program. The Florida Department of Education uses the Florida Education and Training Placement Information Program (FETPIP) to track the employment and earnings of students who have graduated, exited or completed a public education or training program within the State of Florida.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
2022-23 ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE COMPLETERS  
FETPIP FOLLOW-UP OUTCOMES

PROGRAM	TOTAL FREQUENCY	FOUND EMPLOYED	%	EMPLOYED FULL QTR	%	FULL QTR AVG ANNUALIZED EARNINGS	TRAINING RELATED	%	CONTINUING EDUCATION	%	TOTAL POOL COUNT	POSITIVE PLACEMENT	%
Engineering Technology	200	151	75%	121	60%	\$40,408	74	49%	72	36%	382	120	80%

**TOTAL FREQUENCY** - Total population reported for follow-up to FETPIP.  
**# FOUND EMPLOYED** - Population of **TOTAL FREQUENCY** with wages during the 4th quarter (October to December) of 2021.  
**% FOUND EMPLOYED** - **# FOUND EMPLOYED** divided by **TOTAL FREQUENCY**.  
**# EMPLOYED FULL QTR** - Population of **# FOUND EMPLOYED** earning at least \$4,240 (min. wage (\$12.00) x 40 hours per week x 33).  
**% EMPLOYED FULL QTR** - **# EMPLOYED FULL QTR** divided by **TOTAL FREQUENCY**.  
**FULL QTR AVG ANNUALIZED EARNINGS** - Average quarterly earnings multiplied by four (annualized) for those found employed full quarter.  
**# TRAINING RELATED** - Population of **# FOUND EMPLOYED** found employed in an industry related to training received.  
**% TRAINING RELATED** - **# TRAINING RELATED** divided by **# FOUND EMPLOYED**.  
**# CONTINUING EDUCATION** - Population of **TOTAL FREQUENCY** found enrolled in a postsecondary institution.  
**% CONTINUING EDUCATION** - **# CONTINUING EDUCATION** divided by **TOTAL FREQUENCY**.  
**TOTAL POOL COUNT** - Population of **TOTAL FREQUENCY** found either employed or continuing education (excluding training/industry relations flagged as undeterminable).  
**# POSITIVE PLACEMENT** - Population of **TOTAL POOL COUNT** who are either employed in an industry related to training received or in continuing education, regardless of employment status.  
**% POSITIVE PLACEMENT** - **NUMBER POSITIVE PLACEMENT** divided by **TOTAL POOL COUNT**.

The most recent data revealed a continued trend of success in Engineering Technology (ET) AS Degree programs across Florida. Highlighting this success with high school students could help increase the number of students entering the AS ET programs, increasing the number of students learning the skills needed by manufacturers in Florida.

[Read Full Article on FETPIP Program](#)

## Upcoming Events & Professional Development

### AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation Training for Post-Secondary & Secondary Educators July 10-11 or Oct 7-8, Owensboro, KY

Hands-on training in Industry 4.0 technologies that you can take back to your classroom as you 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



**AMTEC<sup>®</sup>**  
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNICAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE  
**INSTITUTE FOR  
INDUSTRY 4.0 INNOVATION**  
Owensboro, KY  
Choose from multiple dates to attend one of the two day trainings:  
May 20-21, 2025    June 10-11, 2025  
July 10-11, 2025    Oct. 7-8, 2025  
Thank you to our partners!  
zSpace |  Multi-Skill Training SERVICES  
This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Award No. 2008090. Any questions, findings, and conclusions are those of the author(s) and not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.  
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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.

[Click here to apply](#)



## IGNITE Advanced Manufacturing Workshop: Free for Florida High School Educators & CTE Administrators July 10-11, 2025 at AmSkills, Holiday, FL

Attention Florida High School Teachers! Join us for an engaging 2-day workshop where you'll discover the IGNITE program and explore how to master advanced manufacturing techniques. This is an excellent opportunity to stay on the cutting edge of manufacturing education while helping to prepare the next generation of highly skilled workers.

The **IGNITE** program aims to address the growing demand for a skilled talent pipeline in industries such as **Defense, Space, and Semiconductors**. [Click here for more information on the Ignite High School Program.](#)

Sponsored by the Florida Semiconductor Institute, AmSkills Inc., DC Jaeger, and Amatrol.



**UF** | Florida Semiconductor Institute  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

In Partnership With:  
**AMATROL**  
**DC JAEGER**  
**AMSKILLS**  
Technical Training & Apprenticeships

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
JULY 10TH & 11TH  
Explore, Learn & Collaborate

**WHO:**  
FREE for all Florida High School Teachers.

**ABOUT:**  
The IGNITE Mastering Advanced-Manufacturing program is a series of courses designed by LIFT, who is one of the 16 national Manufacturing Institutes. The development of this program was funded by the Department of Defense to provide a skilled talent pipeline for manufacturing industries including Defense, Space, Semiconductors, etc. LIFT then contracted with Amatrol, to author the curriculum and to develop the course content and the training equipment needed for the hands-on skills. IGNITE is a project-based series of courses that contain group projects developed by several of the Manufacturing Institutes.

**WHERE:**  
AmSkills Workforce  
Innovation Center  
4606 Darlington Rd.  
Holiday, FL 34690  
727.301.1282 ext. 121

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**  
Holiday Inn Express  
2125 Corporate Center Dr.  
Trinity, FL 34655  
Discount Code: 0003297062

**REGISTRATION:**  
  
Join us for an IGNITE Mastering Advanced Manufacturing Workshop - Space

See the Power of IGNITE for Your High School Advanced Manufacturing Program

352-398-3817  
sophia.watson@ufl.edu  
<https://fsi.institute.ufl.edu/2025/02/ignite-workshop/>

Register Now!

Minneapolis • July 21-24

# HI-TEC 2025

HIGH IMPACT TECHNOLOGY  
EXCHANGE CONFERENCE

Preparing America's Skilled  
Technical Workforce



Join 600+ attendees from around the U.S. at the Minneapolis Marriott City Center! Participate in **half-day workshops and SIGs**, 95+ breakout sessions, **keynotes**, a vibrant exhibit hall, and networking opportunities galore! Take home promising practices that you can implement in your own programs.

Register Here

## 10th Annual Manufacturing Education 5K October 26, 2025

Registration is now open for participants who wish to run, walk, or volunteer at the event at [www.mastercutoff.com/race](http://www.mastercutoff.com/race). This event, presented by



Mastercut Tool Corp. and the Shaluly Foundation, LLC, supports our ongoing mission to provide scholarships and opportunities for students pursuing careers in the vital field of manufacturing. In the past 9 years, \$232,000 has been distributed to deserving students.

[Click here to reach out to discuss how you can become involved.](#) Sponsorships include a table at our event expo and adding your promotional items to our participants' goodie bags.

Register or Become a Sponsor!

## News & Opportunities

### *Cutting Tool Engineering Magazine Spotlights FLATE & FloridaMakes Partners in article **Manufacturing Rising***

The May 2025 issue of Cutting Tool Engineering spotlights the critical role of workforce development in revitalizing U.S. manufacturing. Industry veterans Roy Sweatman, Harry Moser, and Terry Iverson share their insights on reshaping public perception and addressing the skilled labor shortage. Sweatman, President of Southern Manufacturing Technologies in Tampa, emphasizes the importance of local engagement and education. Moser, founder of the Reshoring Initiative, discusses strategies to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. Iverson, through CHAMPION Now!, focuses on inspiring the next generation of manufacturers. Together, they highlight the urgency of collaborative efforts to ensure a robust future for American manufacturing. Explore their perspectives in this compelling issue.



Read Full Article

## Summer Camp Opportunities: STEM/Manufacturing

Gaineville, FL - September 27

Brandon, FL - July 7-11



**STEM on the Lawn**  
Presented by **UF** Florida Semiconductor Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

**LEARN ABOUT:**

- ▶ SCIENCE
- ▶ TECHNOLOGY
- ▶ ENGINEERING
- ▶ MATH
- ▶ AND MORE!

**FREE** for all K-12 students and parents!

**WHERE:** Reitz Union  
North Lawn @ UF

**WHEN:** September 27<sup>th</sup>  
from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm



**SCAN FOR MORE INFO**



**STEM on the Lawn**, hosted by the Florida Semiconductor Institute at the University of Florida, is a free, family-friendly community STEM day is designed to spark curiosity and excitement around science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for K-12 students.

Saturday, September 27  
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
University of Florida, Reitz Union,  
North Lawn

[More info](#)

**HCC**  
Brandon Campus  
FOR KIDS GRADES 6-10  
**Drones for Girls**  
*Summer Tech Camp 2025*  
HANDS-ON, PILOT REAL DRONES,  
EXCITING TECH ADVENTURES EVERY DAY!



**LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**  
\$399  
Make checks or Money orders payable to HCC

Mail applications to:  
Eliana Villalobos  
1943 Nancy Watkins Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33605

**SPONSORS:** CAMP, SPARK FORCE, Hillsborough County, BAMA, WATE, ADAMS

Date: July 7-11, 2025  
Location: HCC Engineering Technology  
1943 Nancy Watkins Dr, Tampa, FL 33605  
Time: 8:30 AM - 4 PM

+1 (813) 253-7852  
adobbins@hccfl.edu  
hccfl.edu

**Drones for Girls Camp**, hosted by Hillsborough Community College, is designed for middle school girls to explore the applications of drones in industrial fields and personal use fields. Students will fly Real Drones and learn to navigate obstacle courses, complete flying challenges, and practice the art of drone piloting.

July 7 - 11 - 8:30 AM - 4PM  
Hillsborough Community College  
Brandon Campus

[More info & Application](#)

## University of Florida Research Team Needs Autistic Adults Who Are Enrolled or Have Completed Engineering Programs

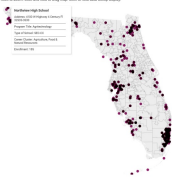
A research team at the University of Florida is exploring how virtual reality (VR) can be used to create accessible science lab experiences for autistic students, with a focus on teaching microelectronics technology. Participants are invited to a focus group interview, where they will have the opportunity to experience a VR science lab prototype and provide feedback on the app's design and accessibility. The 2-hour process will include the following: VR app experience, Group interview, Design activities (e.g., sketching or storyboarding), and Follow-up survey. Location: College of Education, University of Florida (1221 SW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601). Participants will receive compensation of \$100 Amazon Gift cards.

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Autistic adults (18 years or older)
- Currently enrolled in or completed an engineering program related to semiconductors (e.g., Electrical, Chemical, Materials Science, or Mechanical Engineering)
- Have experience in participating in science laboratories
- Interested in semiconductor manufacturing
- Willing and able to use a VR headset (Meta Quest Pro)
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident

## FLATE Resources

Academic Programs at Secondary Education Curriculum Institutions that Support Manufacturing



### 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

- Insights into the Workforce of the Future (April 2025)
- AI & Machine Learning Workshops (March & April 2025)
- 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)



View Webinars on  
Demand



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



[FLATE wiki](https://flate.wiki)



[madeinflorida.org](https://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.

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