

FLATE FOCUS

November 2025



part of the
FloridaMakes
network

Faculty: Scroll down to the Opportunities section for PD and grant opportunities including an FSI Semiconductor Course (\$250 stipend), a free CNC Machine Tool Calibration Workshop and manufacturing summer camps grants (\$2,000).

Reducing Student Barriers to Manufacturing Careers

Last month, Mechanism and The Century Foundation hosted the Industry & Inclusion (I&I) South Fall Gathering at Hillsborough College in Tampa. This group includes workforce leaders, educators, and changemakers from across the American South. The event featured breakout sessions, coaching, and peer-led discussions that sparked honest conversations about the realities of implementing programs in a rapidly changing political and economic environment.

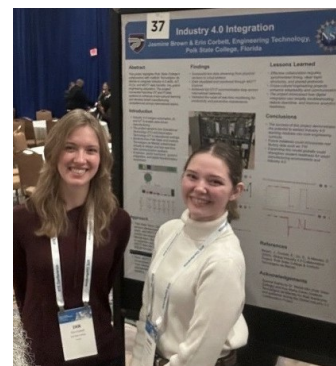


Participants explored practical strategies, from overcoming transportation and enrollment barriers to building partnerships with K-12 schools and engaging parents more meaningfully. Dr. Barger, Senior Educational Advisor at FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center), presented on how colleges can better engage in regional economic development activities, based on work supported by the National Science Foundation in collaboration with Rutgers University's Education and Employment Research Center (EERC).

[Read full article](#)

Polk State College Students Shine at ATE PI Conference

At the annual NSF ATE Principal Investigator conference in Washington, D.C., October 29-31, 2025, two Engineering Technology students from Polk State College (PSC) - Erin Corbett and Jasmine Brown - wowed attendees with their poster presentation "Industry 4.0 Integration". The PSC team collaborated with a team from the Instituto Tecnológico de Mérida, Mexico. The project connected real-time OT and IT data systems to enhance cross-cultural learning and develop smart manufacturing competencies across international teams. The PSC team poster session was one of over fifty student posters from advanced technology programs across the country.



In addition to their poster presentation, the students met with attending industry representatives, attended plenary sessions, visited D.C. museums, and were recognized by the conference organizers and faculty during an awards breakfast. It's a proud moment for the students and their mentors as we anticipate them taking their roles in today's advanced technology workplaces and moving into leadership positions.

[Read full article](#)

FSI | FLATE Paid Semiconductor Internship Opportunity

FLATE has partnered with the Florida Semiconductor Institute (FSI) to manage a paid internship program at semiconductor companies throughout Florida. **Who is eligible?** University, state college, technical college and high-school students from across Florida who are in engineering, manufacturing, chemical or related programs. Please share the flyer with your eligible students. Those interested can fill out the interest form at the link below or through the QR code on the flyer.



[Student Interest Form](#)

Events

FLATE Engineering Technology (ET) Faculty Mentorship December 1, 2025 - 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Join us for the FLATE Monthly ET Mentorship meeting, designed to help new faculty with questions about curriculum, labs, advisory committees, and much more. We also invite experienced faculty to share their knowledge. **Starting in Spring 2026, meetings will be held on Fridays 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM EST.** Registrants will receive monthly meeting reminders. Click on the button below to sign-up and share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested!



[Register for Mentorship Meetings](#)

Stratasys Truck Tour at Embry Riddle November 19, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM ET

See the latest from Stratasys Industrial Grade 3D Printing Solutions:

- Experience the Stratasys offering: All 5 Stratasys technologies are showcased in our mobile showroom: SAF H350, FDM F370 & F3300, PJ J55, P3 DLP Origin, SLA Neo800.
 - Learn from best-in-class experts: Attend live software demonstrations by Stratasys and Prototyping Solutions GrabCAD experts.
 - Explore additive manufacturing: See production-grade printed parts and real-world applications that span across multiple industries.
- Come see a FANUC CRX5iA CoBot Putt-Putt demo

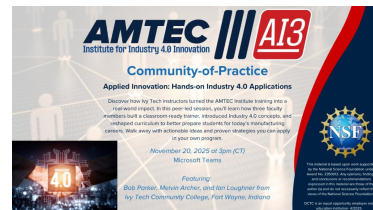
challenge as well as Minds-i and FTW Drones!



Registration

Virtual Training Session AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation (AI3) Applied Innovation: Hands-on Industry 4.0 Applications November 20, 2025 at 3:00 PM CT

Hear from three faculty members who attended an AMTEC training session and walked away with actionable ideas and strategies that could be applied to your own program. They will share what they learned on building classroom-ready trainers and introducing Industry 4.0 concepts for today's manufacturing careers.



For questions or more information, contact [Cadie Underwood](#), AI3 Project Manager

Register Today!

Florida Career Pathways Network (FCPN) 2026 Symposium January 21-23, 2026 - Jensen Beach



Join other Florida Career Pathways and Career and Technical Education leaders and practitioners for a variety of workshops, professional dialogues, and best practice showcases from around the state. Hotel reservations can be made from their [website](#).

Pre-Conference event will be held January 21, 2026 from 12:00-4:00. Includes lunch and a tour of a local education facility.

Register now until December 15, 2025

50th ASEE Engineering Technology Leadership Institute
February 2-3, 2026 - New Orleans, LA
Discount Code expires December 4



This year's ETLI event will be co-located with the Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration (CIEC) being held February 3-6, 2026. ETLI is open to all faculty, staff, and administrators who want to promote engineering technology education. **Those wishing to attend BOTH conferences will get a discount on the ETLI registration until December 4, 2025 by using code CIEC26** when registering for ETLI. Questions can be sent to [Conference Chair Lara Sharp](#), Dean of Engineering, Technology, and Advanced Manufacturing, Valencia College

[More Info](#)

Xello Florida Summit - FREE February 19-20, 2026 - Kissimmee, FL

The Summit brings together administrators, educators, counselors, CTE leaders, and community partners from across Florida to talk honestly about what's working — and what's not — when it comes to preparing students for what's next. Sessions will focus on what's actually happening in your schools and communities. Connect with people who truly get your work and leave with ideas you can use. The event will kick off with a celebration dinner on the evening of February 19, then dive into a full day of peer-led workshops on the 20th. It's FREE to attend — and genuinely one of the most energizing events of the year.



[More Info and to Register](#)

Florida Semiconductor Summit February 19-20, 2026 - Kissimmee, FL

The [Florida Semiconductor Summit](#) returns in 2026 and this year's theme is: "Semiconductor Manufacturing in Florida: Power. Progress. Possibilities.", highlighting the innovation, investment, and momentum driving Florida's role in strengthening the U.S. semiconductor industry. This summit brings together leaders from industry, academia, and government to explore the technologies, talent, and infrastructure shaping Florida's semiconductor future.



Early-bird Registration until
January 11, 2026

Exhibit or Sponsor deadline
January 23, 2026

HI-TEC 2026: Save the Date!



Opportunities

Manufacturing Summer Camps Spotlight MFG Careers! 2026 SparkForce Grant Application | \$2,000 per Camp Deadline: December 1, 2025



Inspire the next generation of manufacturers by hosting a summer manufacturing camp at your school. Formerly known as Nuts, Bolts & Thingamajigs (or NBT), SparkForce, the charitable foundation of the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, provides grant funding to help cover the costs of running an engaging, hands-on camp that introduces students to rewarding careers in manufacturing. Camps include visits to local manufacturers!!

To Apply

FSI Faculty Semiconductor BRIDGE Course Professional Development | \$250 Faculty Stipend

This program is designed to support faculty and teachers from Florida schools (middle & high school, technical, community or state college) who are interested in learning more about the semiconductor industry in Florida and sharing this knowledge with their students.



Selected participants will complete three online modules, averaging one hour each:

- What is it like to work in a Clean Room?
- What is the Semiconductor Industry?
- Jobs in the Semiconductor Industry.

Other requirements: complete a brief pre-survey and post-survey.

Faculty and teachers who are selected and successfully complete the three BRIDGE courses and surveys will receive a \$250 stipend.

To Apply

CNC Machine Tool Calibration Workshop

December 4-5, 2025

Indian River State College, Ft. Pierce



CNC MACHINE TOOL CALIBRATION WORKSHOP
December 4-5, 2025 | 9 am - 4 pm
Indian River State College
3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Renishaw Process Control for Haas CNC Machines
Hands-On Training with Process Foundation, Setting/Adjustment, Ballbar, and Probing/Tool Setting

Ballbar Diagnosis & Machine Health
• Live demonstration of ballbar analysis
• Hands-on machine adjustment based on results

Machine Tool Calibration & Curriculum
• Learn how to integrate calibration training into your program
• Explore Process Foundation, the first level of the Productive Pyramid of Manufacturing

Who should attend?
• College Instructors
• Industry Professionals

Next steps:
• Register to confirm participation
• Please share with college machining instructors in Florida
• Industry partners welcome—feel free to share with your network
• Let us know if you have questions or need details

Register

For more information contact Alex Wrobel at awrobel@irsc.edu or 772-462-7042

Indian River State College
A public state college serving the Indian River County community

In partnership with Renishaw and HAAS, Indian River State College is hosting a two-day, hands-on training: Renishaw Process Control for Haas CNC machines. The training will be held December 4–5, 2025 at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, FL.

The two-day workshop is completely free of charge and machining educators and manufacturers are encouraged to attend. Participants will be responsible for their own travel and lodging expenses.

To ensure high-quality, hands-on learning, participation is limited to 15 attendees, so register early!

[Register here](#)

Manufacturing Prep Accelerated Program (MPAP)

FREE 25-week session begins January 12, 2026

SJR State College (Orange Park & Palatka)



MANUFACTURING PREP ACCELERATED PROGRAM (MPAP)
SEATING IS LIMITED. PROGRAM IS FREE TO ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.
The application deadline is Friday, December 12, 2025

MPAP prepares you for the Certified Production Technician 4.0 (CPT) designation with a combination of hands-on exercises and instructor training. Topics covered include:

- Safety
- Quality Practices and Measurement
- Manufacturing Processes and Production
- Maintenance Awareness

Students also earn OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR/AED credentials. Those who pass the CPT certification exams earn 15 credits (one semester) toward the associate in science degree in Engineering Technology. Additionally, this short-term training program connects participants with local firms and quickly increases their employability for manufacturing production and quality assurance positions.

This program is open to U.S. citizens, eligible non-citizens 18 years or older (by program start date), interested in working in manufacturing, and meeting program admission requirements. Eligible participants will be enrolled at no cost through support from Operation Next Florida (operationnext.com).

THREE OPTIONS FOR CLASSES THIS SPRING TO CHOOSE FROM (STARTING JANUARY 12, 2026):
Orange Park Campus: Monday and Thursday 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. (in person) and Tuesday 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. online
Orange Park Campus: Monday and Thursday 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. (in person) and Tuesday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. online
Palatka Campus: Monday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. (in person) Tuesday and Thursday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. online

Visit sjrstate.courseteam.com/category/manufacturing or scan the QR code for program details and registration forms.

QUESTIONS? Contact Russ Berger at RussellBerger@sjrstate.edu or call (904) 276-6773.

The Manufacturing Prep Accelerated Program (MPAP) prepares students for the Certified Production Technician 4.0 (CPT) designation with hands-on exercises and instructor training. Topics covered are: Safety, Quality Practices and Measurement, Manufacturing Processes and Production and Maintenance Awareness. Students also earn OSHA 10 and First Aid/CPR/AED credentials.

Those who pass the CPT certification exams earn 15 credits (one semester) toward the Associate in Science degree in Engineering Technology. Additionally, participants will make valuable connections with regional employers and receive career assistance. This short-term training program connects participants with local firms for careers in manufacturing production and quality assurance. Operation Next Florida is a

partnership between the Florida Department of State and LIFT, a public-private partnership between government, industry, and academia. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Three class options are available this spring (starting January 12):

- Orange Park Campus (Afternoon Option): Monday & Thursday, 2:30–5:00 PM (in-person) and Tuesday, 3:00–5:00 PM (online)
- Orange Park Campus (Evening Option): Monday & Thursday, 5:30–8:00 PM (in-person) and Tuesday, 5:30–7:30 PM (online)
- Palatka Campus: Monday, 6:00–8:00 PM (in-person) and Tuesday & Thursday, 5:00–8:00 PM (online)

[Register by December 12, 2025](#)

Free Electro-Mechanical Resources

Jim Pytel, Electro-Mechanical Technology Instructor and Chair of Technology and Trades at Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles, Oregon had been providing free course materials for over a decade (funded in part under NSF ATE Grant # 1600434) at <https://www.youtube.com/@bigbadtech>, including the following:

- [DC Circuit Analysis](#)
- [Single Phase AC Circuit Analysis](#)
- [3 Phase AC Circuit Analysis](#)
- [Hydraulics](#)
- [Pneumatics](#)
- [Motors and Generators](#)
- [Motor Control](#)
- [Study guides and worksheets](#)

Introducing Etch - Florida's Newest Semiconductor Workforce Development Program



Etch

Etch is a state-led initiative that bridges the gap between education and careers in semiconductors and connects Floridians to opportunities in the growing field. Join the Etch Talent Network to discover a wide range of career paths

and to access exclusive resources including:

- Guidance for students, parents and advisors
- Support for schools and educators
- Programs that meet local job demand

The Etch Talent Network connects professionals and employers through anonymous, algorithm-driven matching. Candidates can explore contract and full-time roles, pursue advancement, and grow in a vital industry. Employers gain direct access to skilled talent at every level without traditional barriers.

[Learn More](#)

Introducing ALLready - Career Readiness for ALL

Coalition for
Career Development
Center



On November 9, 2025, The Coalition for Career Development (CCD) Center launched **ALLready**, a new extension of the Center designed to accelerate learners and leaders across industry, education,

government, and communities nationwide. From strategic guidance and professional learning, to playbooks, innovation labs, and partnerships, ALLready is designed to move leaders from vision to real-world results. Educators, employers, and workforce leaders can utilize these resources to help integrate career readiness into schools, build partnerships, and support learners at every stage of life.

- Integrate academic, career, and durable skills into the educational core for ALL.
- Nurture career-ready cities with integrated partnerships between industry, K-12, and colleges.

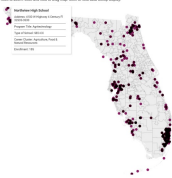
- Build the capacity of community and youth organizations to lead career exploration and coaching.

You can read more about the meaning of ALLready's name and charge by reading [this blog post](#) and follow the CCD Center/ALLready on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) to stay connected. The more voices, the stronger the impact.

Find ALLready Resources and Get Involved Today!

FLATE Resources

Academic Programs at Secondary Education Curriculum Institutions that Support Manufacturers



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 (2025)
- AI & Machine Learning Workshops (2025)
- Data Analytics in Manufacturing (2024)
- Necessary Skills Now: Resources for Integrating Employability Skills into Technical Programs (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

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

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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