



Faculty: Scroll down to the Opportunities & Resources section for PD support - free FACTE courses and ASEE Mini-Grant.

2026 FLATE Manufacturing Education Awards



2026 FLATE Award Nominations Open Now Nominate a Deserving Educator or Industry Partner Today!

FLATE Awards recognize secondary and post-secondary educators as well as industry and community partners for their outstanding contributions to promote and support technology education and career-awareness in manufacturing. Awardees include individuals in any manufacturing area including economic development, industry, education and administration.

Do you know an educator or manufacturing professional who goes above and beyond?
Make your nomination today for:

- FLATE Distinguished Manufacturing Secondary Educator-of-the-Year Award
- FLATE Distinguished Manufacturing Post-Secondary Educator-of-the-Year Award
- FLATE Distinguished Manufacturing Partner Service Award

Nominations close: February 13, 2026.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for the 2026 FLATE Awards, [click here for Sponsorship Information](#).

Click Here to make a
Nomination

Good-bye from Marilyn Barger

Dear FLATE friends, fans, and family!

A fond, so long, farewell, Au'voir, auf Wiedersehen, Adieu, and my very best wishes to all of you!! It's time for me to say

"goodbye".

I will retire from FLATE/FloridaMakes on December 31, just a few days away. Each and every one of you is special in my heart, and I will miss working with you all, both individually and as a community. Our goal to support students and manufacturing education in Florida is being accomplished because of us. Together, we have accomplished so much; so, continue learning from and leaning on each other to continue the good work going forward.



I wish you all the best with good health and happiness in the near and far future. Remember, we are all on a journey; circumstances change, and we must adapt. When I first studied engineering, I learned that there are many paths to a solution that works, but the chosen path may only be applicable at a specific time and place. "Do the best with what you have and know at the time you need to make a decision". Thank you for your support, your trust, and your friendship.

My warmest regards and respect of all of you,
Marilyn

(If you wish to stay in touch, I can be reached at dr.marilyn.barger@gmail.com after 12/31).

Events

FLATE Engineering Technology (ET) Faculty Mentorship February 13, 2026 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 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. **Meetings will be held on the 2nd Friday of the month starting in February.** Click on the button below to sign-up and share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested.



Register for Mentorship
Meetings

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](#). Includes lunch and a tour of a local education facility.

Register by December
19

February 2-3, 2026 - New Orleans, LA

This year's ETLI event will be co-located with the Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration (CIEC) being held February 4-6, 2026. Whether you are developing new programs, shaping policy, supporting faculty, or mentoring students, ETLI offers a uniquely focused and collegial space to collaborate with peers and thought leaders who care deeply about preparing the next generation of technical professionals. The insights and connections made at ETLI have a lasting impact on programs, partnerships, and the engineering technology profession as a whole.



Register for
ETLI

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 after high school.



Register for Xello
Summit

Florida Semiconductor Summit February 23-25, 2026 - Orlando, FL



The [Florida Semiconductor Summit](#) returns in 2026 with the theme **Semiconductor Manufacturing in Florida: Power. Progress. Possibilities** and will highlight the innovation, investment and momentum driving Florida's role in strengthening the U.S. semiconductor industry. Leaders from industry, academia, and government will 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 Call for Proposals now Open!

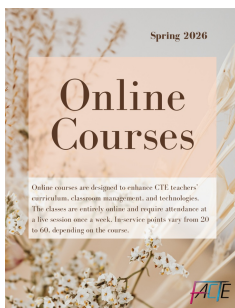


Preconference Workshop
Proposals due February 10

Conference/Poster Session
Proposals due February 27

Opportunities & Resources

FACTE Online Courses for CTE Instructors - FREE Begin in January 2026



FACTE's courses are free to Florida Public CTE teachers and are designed to enhance curriculum, classroom management and technologies. Courses are filling up fast! If your course of choice is full, please register for the waitlist.

Classes are entirely online and require attendance at a live session once a week. In-service points vary from 20 to 60, depending on the course. Check with your county to verify they accept FACTE courses for recertification.

[Register Today](#)

ASEE EOP Mini-Grants Application Open Deadline: January 16, 2026

Are you an engineering educator with a passion for sustainability? This mini-grant provides \$8,000 in seed funding, mentorship, and a virtual Community of Practice to develop and pilot innovative course modules that embed sustainability across engineering programs using the **EOP Framework**. The program activities will span Spring - Summer 2026 for course modifications in Fall 2026 and a virtual final Public Symposium early 2027.



[Apply Today](#)

InSPIRE Your Students Today
"Choose Your Own Adventure" Manufacturing Virtual Tours

FSU's Institute of Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Research, and Education ([InSPIRE](#)) workforce development team has designed and launched free virtual tours showcasing advanced manufacturing. Two advanced manufacturing tours were designed in a digital "choose your own adventure" style for an engaging and interactive experience in both additive and subtractive manufacturing, highlighting career pathways in advanced manufacturing. To further support learning each tour includes:

- optional "skill gauges" including comprehension questions that allow students to check their understanding at two different levels of knowledge.
- downloadable interdisciplinary activities available, for beginners to advanced learners, which are perfect for deepening engagement at-home or in the classroom.

These virtual tours can be accessed through [CPALMS](#) with no login required.

Maritech Machine Virtual
Tour

Fort Walton Machining
Virtual Tour

2026 Florida Semiconductor Institute Awards Submit Your Nomination Today!

2026 FSI AWARDS

Submit your nominations to recognize individuals and teams who demonstrate outstanding achievement, innovation, and impact in the Semiconductor field in the following categories:

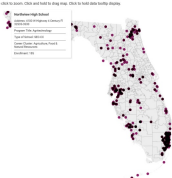
- Semiconductor Fellow
- Semiconductor Rising Star
- Semiconductor Industry Technician of the Year
- Semiconductor Workforce Development Program of Excellence.

Winners will receive cash prizes, invitations to the 2026 Florida Semiconductor Summit (Feb. 23–25, 2026, Orlando, FL), and recognition across the FSI community.

Nomination Deadline January 15,
2026

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.org/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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