

FLATE FOCUS

April 2026



Register Now for the Spring 2026 ET Forum
April 16-17, 2026

FORUM
on Engineering Technology



April 16 - 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM
April 17 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Advanced Technology Center
1770 Technology Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Florida ET Faculty: Register Now

ET Forum Pre-Conference Training (FREE) Implications of Artificial Intelligence for Educators April 15, 2026 - 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM ET

This workshop equips faculty, staff, counselors, and advisors with the knowledge and tools to integrate AI into teaching and curriculum development. Participants will explore lesson planning, interactive content, dynamic assessments, and ethical AI use. Through hands-on activities and real-world examples, they'll learn to enhance student engagement, streamline tasks, and prepare students for an AI-driven future.

The session also prepares attendees for the Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals Certification exam (exam cost not included). Space is limited so register early if interested. **Registration code: A5UH1FW6.**

The flyer includes the following text:

- NOVTE CENTER** (Northwest Florida State College)
- Implications of Artificial Intelligence for Educators**
- April 15 - In-Person, Second Day Virtual Session - 780
- IN PERSON EVENT**: April 15, 2026 • 9:00am - 4:00pm ET, Advanced Technology Center, 1770 Technology Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32117
- REGISTER FOR THIS WORKSHOP HERE** (with QR code)
- WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION**: This workshop equips faculty, staff, counselors, and advisors with the knowledge and tools to integrate AI into teaching and curriculum development. Participants will explore lesson planning, interactive content, dynamic assessments, and ethical AI use. Through hands-on activities and real-world examples, they'll learn to enhance student engagement, streamline tasks, and prepare students for an AI-driven future. The session also prepares attendees for the Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals Certification exam (exam cost not included).
- WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**:
 - AI in Action: See how AI improves decision-making, problem solving, and data analysis.
 - Interactive Applications: Try hands-on AI activities for classrooms and administrators.
 - Ethics & Challenges: Tackle misconceptions, bias, data, and privacy concerns.
 - AI Tools: Design interactive assessments, course lists, and virtual assistants.
 - Certification Prep: Get ready for the Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals exam.
 - Future Ready Students: Build critical thinking and AI skills for success.
- For more information about our programs and resources, visit: myartlearning.com/resources
- Logos for WFLA, EPNE, and DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE.

Register Now

FloridaMakes, FLATE & SFMA Launch the South Florida
What's So Cool About Manufacturing® Video Contest

Voting Open April 9-10, 2026

"What's So Cool About Manufacturing?" is a student video contest, created by the Manufacturers Resource Center (MRC) in 2013, designed to inspire the next generation of Florida's advanced manufacturing workforce. In 2025, FloridaMakes & FLATE won a 'Scaling What Works' grant sponsored by Blue Forge to bring the program to Florida!



This dynamic student contest challenges middle school teams to explore local manufacturers and create short videos showcasing what makes manufacturing an exciting career path. FloridaMakes & FLATE partnered with the South Florida Manufacturers Association to bring the program to 9 middle schools in South Florida. The videos will be available shortly through the website below - voting will be open for the Viewer's Choice Award on April 9-10, 2026.

Voting Opens on April 9, 2026

Updating Florida's ET Career Pathways NSF Grant 2148138 Concludes

The National Science Foundation project *Updating Florida's ET Career Pathways for Industry 4.0 Engagement* was concluded on December 31, 2025 and its final report submitted in March 2026. This project was led by FLATE (PI, Dr. Marilyn Barger). FLATE, a former NSF-ATE-supported Center for 20 years, is now part of FloridaMakes, the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). The U.S. MEP program is supported by the Department of Commerce.



[The grant was awarded in March 2022](#) to update the A.S. Engineering Technology program to include Industry 4.0 skills identified in a previous small [conference grant](#) (Future of Work Caucus) which brought Florida industries and educators together to define needed emerging manufacturing technician skills.

Read full article

Faculty Opportunities

Chip in Florida: K-12 Semiconductor Education Challenge Teach a Semiconductor Lesson & Win Prizes

The Florida Semiconductor Institute (FSI) invites teachers and students across the state to participate in the 2026 Chip in Florida Challenge – a statewide STEM initiative designed to integrate semiconductor learning into classrooms while building early awareness of high-demand career pathways.



Registrants are provided with a curated collection of FSI-approved semiconductor lesson plans organized by grade band. Implement the lessons and then guide students through a required culminating challenge submission aligned to their grade level. All grade levels will answer the essential question: How can semiconductors power a smarter future—and what careers make that future possible?

Deadline: April 24, 2026

DeRocco Fellowship: Advanced Manufacturing Fellowship for Future Women Leaders

The **DeRocco Fellowship** offers women enrolled in (or recent graduate of) a post-secondary program the opportunity to develop leadership skills through Mentorship, Professional Development, and Community Building. Interested interns self-confirm in the application that they meet the following eligibility:



- Employment or placement in an internship for summer 2026
- Enrolled in a post-secondary program (or completed with the past two years)
- At least one full semester completed
- Are interested in pursuing a leadership career in manufacturing.

Apply by April 30, 2026

Events & Workshops

AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation Virtual Trainings April 7, May 14 & June 9, 2026



The Advanced Manufacturing Technical Education Collaborative (AMTEC) Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation (AI3) project (NSF DUE 2350012) provides professional development opportunities to high

school, 2-year technical college, and 4-year university faculty that teach manufacturing related courses in the United States. These virtual sessions provide monthly opportunities to engage with peers, industry partners, and national experts.

- **April 7 at 3pm CT – From Classroom to Manufacturing Lab: Tips for Teaching Industry 4.0 - Modern Manufacturing Starts in Your Classroom**
- **May 14 at 12pm CT – Joint Community of Practice Session - National Insights on the Future of Manufacturing and AI**
- **June 9 at 11am CT – Innovating in Engineering and Welding Education - Unlock High-Value Tools for Welding & Engineering Labs**

Learn more & Register

AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation In-Person Educator Trainings Mar 17-18, May 19-20, June 16-17, Oct 6-7 | Owensboro, KY

AMTEC's in-person 2-day workshop offers hands-on training in Industry 4.0 technologies that instructors can bring back to their classrooms. For high school, technical college, and university faculty teaching advanced manufacturing and related courses. Click on flyer for full details. **Travel assistance and stipends** are available for instructors who meet program requirements.



Learn more & Register

2026 FAME National Conference May 12-14, 2026 | Jacksonville, FL

FAME is the New American Model of Manufacturing Skills Training. From its inception with Toyota to its evolution into The Manufacturing Institute in 2019, FAME has



expanded across the nation, supported by nearly 450 esteemed manufacturers. The program provides an unparalleled apprenticeship-style training program where participants earn while they learn, gaining top-tier technical expertise by integrating core manufacturing competencies, professional practices, and authentic hands-on experience. **There is currently a chapter in Florida at Daytona State College. Considering a chapter in your region? The national conference is an opportunity to learn more and collaborate with leaders from across the FAME network.**

Learn more & Register

STEM Educator Virtual Solar Institutes (FREE!) Saturdays 11AM-1PM CDT: April 11, April 25, May 9

Funded by the CREATE Energy NSF ATE National Center, the institute is designed to build educator confidence and content knowledge in solar energy, system performance, and energy careers. Lessons are aligned for classroom use and adaptable across middle school, high school, and introductory college-level STEM courses. **Each selected participant will receive a mailed equipment kit valued at \$200**, provided at no cost and delivered prior to the start of the institute. This equipment allows participants to actively complete each lesson with guidance from expert facilitators during live, synchronous online sessions.

To apply

Want to develop an NSF ATE Proposal? Apply for the Mentor Up Virtual Workshop June 9-11, 2026

Participants in this mentoring program three-day workshop will learn about the NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program and how to most effectively apply for

grant funding. Faculty must propose a specific project to improve an ATE-eligible technical program in a one-page proposal. One-page proposals will be reviewed until April 15th and proposals will be either accepted or sent back for corrections and the website will remain open until the workshop and a waiting list are full. Workshop activities will include presentations; planning and writing sessions with mentors who have had extensive experience with ATE and NSF; and networking with colleagues from similar institutions around the country. Two faculty from each college will receive stipend support.

To apply

STEM Educator In-Person Solar Institute (Madison, WI) July 7-9, 2026

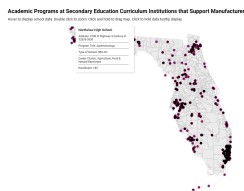
Funded by the CREATE Energy NSF ATE National Center, the institute is designed to build educator confidence and content knowledge in solar energy, system performance, and energy careers. Lessons are aligned for classroom use and adaptable across middle school, high school, and introductory college-level STEM courses. The Solar Institute Includes:

- Hotel for two nights.
- **\$600 Stipend** paid to each participant upon completion of the institute
- **Equipment awards valued at up to \$1200** available to each participant funded by the CREATE Energy NSF ATE National Center

To apply

Resources

FLATE's Manufacturing Matters Dashboard



A tool highlighting manufacturing education, careers, industry, and their impact on Florida's economy. Search for manufacturing education programs across the state, narrow to a particular skill. Students can find a program to enter; Manufacturers can find employees with hands-on training.

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



madeinflorida.org

Florida Department of Education Resources

GET THERE
 Florida's Workforce Education Initiative

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

APPRENTICE FLORIDA

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

Check Out Our Previous Newsletters:

[March 2026 Focus](#) | [Jan/Feb 2026 Focus](#) | [Dec 2025 Focus](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)

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