

FLATE FOCUS

Florida Advanced Technological Education Center

Advancing manufacturing education and Florida's workforce



July/August 2026

FLATE would like to welcome all educators to the 2026-2027 academic year and thank each of you for your dedication to helping students succeed.

FLATE Events

Registration is Open for the Fall 2026 ET Forum



Fall 2026 ET Forum
September 10, 2026 9AM - 5PM
September 11, 2026 9AM - 1PM

Palm Beach State College
Boca Raton Campus
801 Palm Beach State College Dr.
Boca Raton, FL

Who should attend? Florida's post-secondary engineering technologies faculty and industry partners who would like to help align education programs with the evolving needs of the manufacturing and engineering sectors. Watch the ET Forum video to learn more.

[Watch 1-min Video](#)

[Register here](#)

FLATE Engineering Technology (ET) Mentorship Meeting Next Meeting: August 14, 2026 at 11:00 AM ET

Are you new to teaching an engineering or manufacturing program in Florida? Are you a veteran teacher who would like to help mentor new educators? Join us for the FLATE Monthly ET Mentorship meeting, designed to help new faculty with questions about curriculum, labs, advisory committees and much more. Please share this invitation with colleagues who may be interested.

[Register here](#)

FLATE Webinar Series

Get Ready for



Inspire the Future Manufacturing Workforce

Help build a steady
pipeline of
manufacturing talent!

August 27, 2026
4:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

[Register here](#)

FLATE News

SETIAB Welcomes Newly Elected Leadership Team

The [Florida Statewide Engineering Technology Industry Advisory Board \(SETIAB\)](#) was created in Spring 2023 to engage Florida manufacturers with the state colleges that offer two- and four-year degree programs in Engineering Technology (ET). SETIAB's goal is to ensure that the more than twenty ET programs across the state continue to meet the rapidly evolving needs of industry, to raise the visibility of the skills and competencies of program completers, and to elevate awareness of the A.S. and B.S. Engineering Technology degree programs statewide. As SETIAB continues this important work, the board is proud to introduce its newly elected Chair, Vice Chair, and the continued support of the Secretary, who will help lead the organization into its next chapter.

[Read full article](#)

FLATE Partners with Statewide Consortium to Prepare Florida's Next Generation of Advanced Manufacturing Technicians

Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) is leading a newly formed statewide consortium, SMART FL (Statewide Manufacturing and Applied Responsive Technician Education in Florida), submitted to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program under its Track 3 Consortia for Innovations in Technician Education. Building on FSCJ's track record of 13 prior NSF ATE awards totaling over \$7.5 million, SMART FL brings together five Florida College System institutions, the University of Florida, and industry partners representing more than 300 companies to modernize Engineering Technology education across the state.



FLATE will serve as the statewide backbone for coordination, dissemination, and faculty professional development, working alongside strategic collaborators including Florida's Statewide Engineering Technology Industry Advisory Board (SETIAB), the Florida Semiconductor Institute, FloridaMakes, CESMII (the Smart Manufacturing Institute), CareerSource Florida, and NSF's National Center for Next Generation Manufacturing

(NCNGM). SETIAB in particular will play a central role, serving as the statewide forum where employer-validated skills and competencies identified through local Business & Industry Leadership Team (BILT) meetings are reviewed before being advanced to the Florida Department of Education for adoption into Engineering Technology curriculum frameworks.

[Read full article](#)

60th Annual FACTE Conference Celebrates 100 Years of Career and Technical Education Leadership

The 60th Annual FACTE Conference & Trade Show, held July 12–15, 2026, at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld in Orlando, welcomed approximately 700 career and technical education (CTE) professionals from across Florida to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (FACTE).



The 2026 FLATE Education Award winners were recognized during the FACTE Awards Breakfast on Wednesday, July 15, celebrating their outstanding contributions to manufacturing education and workforce development.

Special thanks to our FLATE Award sponsors, Bluegrass Educational Technologies, LLC, Connected Engineering, and DC Jaeger, for their generous support of manufacturing education in Florida.

[Read full article](#)

Opportunities & Events

MSSC 2026 Instructors' Conference Free, Virtual Best-Teaching Practices Conference August 5, 2026 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM EDT

Registration is still open for the 2026 MSSC Instructors' Conference, a virtual event designed to bring together MSSC educators from across the country to share best practices, innovative teaching strategies, and successful program outcomes.



MANUFACTURING
SKILL STANDARDS
COUNCIL

[Learn more & Register](#)

Free Professional Development: FSI Semiconductor Course for Faculty and your Students

This program is designed to support faculty and teachers from Florida schools (middle & high school, technical, community or

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

state college) who are interested in learning more about the semiconductor industry in Florida and sharing this knowledge with their students.

Participants receive the FLATE Semiconductor Bridge Series badge after completing 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

Educators who complete the course are also given the option to invite their students to the course! Click below to register for the course. Reach out to teresa.potter@flate.org with any questions.

Register here

AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation In-Person Educator Training |October 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

Nominations Open for the Manufacturing Institute's 2027 STEP Ahead Awards

The [STEP Ahead Awards](#) honor exceptional individuals in manufacturing who lead by example and strengthen their workplaces. The STEP Ahead Awards recognize outstanding leaders in manufacturing who are driving impact from the shop floor to the C-suite. These awardees serve as living proof of what's possible in a manufacturing career. By celebrating their stories, we help reshape perceptions of the industry and showcase the wide array of talent that powers it.



Nominate here

Resources

Free Course Development Software for the FLATE Community

PreseMaker is a software tool created by one of our FLATE professors, Dr. Ron Eaglin, that is designed to help with course development. The tool is available at the Windows App Store <https://apps.microsoft.com/detail/9mt854nv3fgf?hl=en-US&gl=US>

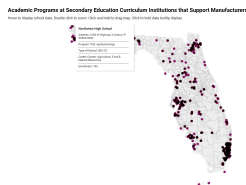
Click here for a course on how to use PreseMaker! This was created in PreseMaker so you can see what it can do.

The App is currently free, however, if you do see a cost use the coupon FLATE for 100% off the price.

Also a handy website for anyone needing information on courses is <https://floridacourserepo.com/> - you can find guides for hundreds of courses here (including ET courses).



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



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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