

FLATE FOCUS

Florida Advanced Technological Education Center



Advancing manufacturing education and Florida's workforce

September 2026

Faculty: Scroll down to Opportunities & Professional Development section for free educator trainings including a Semiconductor Course for you and your students.

FLATE News

Fall 2026 ET Forum: September 10-11, 2026



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

THANK YOU TO OUR FALL 2026 ET FORUM SPONSORS!



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.

[Register here](#)



October is Manufacturing Month: Plan Your Event Now!

Manufacturing Day will be celebrated worldwide on October 2, 2026! The initiative, kicking off every year on the 1st Friday in October, promotes great careers in manufacturing to students. In Florida, we celebrate all month, by opening manufacturing doors to students, parents, and the community to highlight what modern manufacturing looks like and the many high-tech, high-wage careers available!

How you can get involved:

- **Plan a Student Tour** for your district, school or class.
- **Participate in a Regional Event:** Join Manufacturing Month activities across the state
- [Click here to connect to a local partner to schedule your event.](#)
- [Click here to register your event.](#)

Share Your Story: Highlight your school or company's innovation and workforce success stories on social media using:

- #MFGDay26
- #FLMFGMonth26
- #MEPNationalNetwork

The FLATE webinar held on August 27th covered strategies and best practices to help you plan and maximize your Manufacturing Student Event. [Watch the 30-minute webinar on demand for step-by-step instructions.](#)

Let's work together to build a stronger talent pipeline and celebrate the innovation happening across our state. Reach out to FLATE at events@flate.org with any questions.

Manufacturing Month Resources

Manufacturing Month Events

Made in Central Florida Expo
October 15, 2026
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Orlando, FL

Bring your students to the Made in Central Florida Expo and give them a firsthand look at the exciting career opportunities available right here in our region. Through interactive exhibits, hands-on experiences, and direct connections with local manufacturers, students will explore

Manufacturing Day 2026
October 23, 2026
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Hillsborough College

high-demand careers, discover innovative technologies, and gain valuable insight into the future of manufacturing. Don't miss this opportunity to inspire the next generation of talent and connect classroom learning to real-world careers. [Click this link to register your school today!](#)



"The Hidden Innovation Infrastructure (HII): Understanding the Economic Development Role of Technician Education in the Changing Future of Work" Project Completed

Since 2020, Dr. Barger, FLATE's retired Senior Educational Advisor, has participated as co-Principal Investigator of Rutgers University's NSF ATE project, "The Hidden Innovation Infrastructure (HII): Understanding the Economic Development Role of Technician Education in the Changing Future of Work". After a year's extension, this project has been completed. Dr. Barger thanks the FLATE team members, the ET Forum, individual colleges, and Florida's College Workforce Development Council for their interest, participation, and support.

Two tools for community colleges were developed. The first is a typology of four approaches to community college-economic development, with detailed characteristics for each: student-responsive, firm-responsive, industry-responsive, and community-responsive. The second is a checklist of college activities observed at the case study colleges that can help identify and add activities supporting regional economic development. Together, these tools help colleges examine their activities and share them with partners and stakeholders. These tools, and numerous reports from the project, can be found on <https://sites.rutgers.edu/eerc-hii/>. And the NSF project Outcome report is posted on NSF with all recent completed projects and can be found by searching for Award 2026262 or by click [here](#).

ET Faculty Opening

St Johns River State College Engineering Technology Instructor

Class and Grade: FT Faculty, 9 month

Courses to Be Taught: May include core and specialized courses in the A.S. in Engineering Technology degree and related college credit certificates. Specializations in the degree include Advanced Manufacturing and Supply Chain Management. Certificates include Robotics and Simulation Technician, Mechatronics, and Engineering Technology Support Specialist.

[Apply here](#)

Opportunities & Professional Development

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

This course is for 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.



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

2026 FSI Semiconductor Education Day (Free) In-Person Training | September 22, 2026 | 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM Jacksonville, FL



Register here

AMTEC Institute for Industry 4.0 Innovation (Free + Stipend) 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.

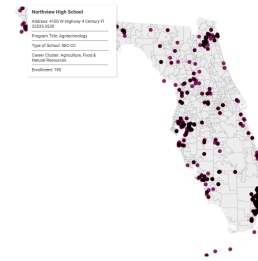
The App is currently free, however, if you do see a cost use the coupon FLATE for 100% off the price.

Also a handy website for anyone needing information on courses is <https://floridacourserrepo.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.

Academic Programs at Secondary Education Curriculum Institutions that Support Manufacturers



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



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FLATE wiki



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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.

Check Out Our Previous Newsletters:

[July/August 2026 Focus](#) | [June 2026 Focus](#) | [May 2026 Focus](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)

FLATE | 201 E. Pine Street Suite 735 | Orlando, FL 32801 US

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