FLATE FOCUS

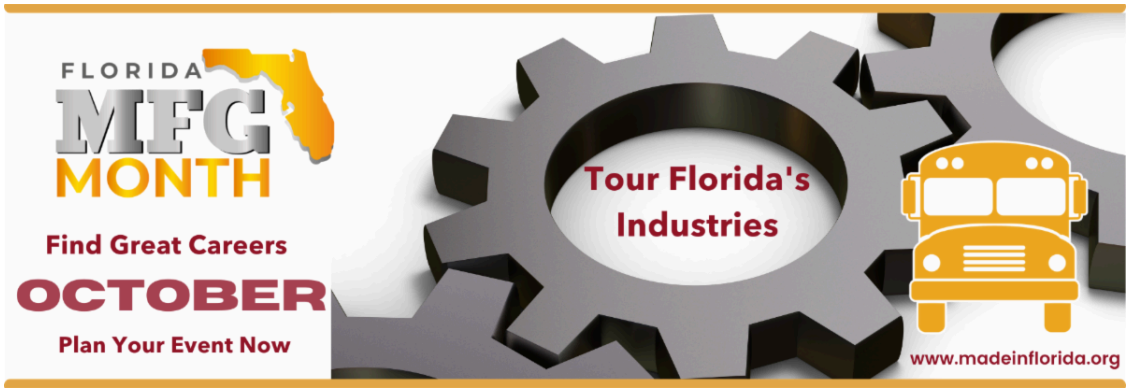
Florida Advanced Technological Education Center

Advancing manufacturing education and Florida's workforce

October 2026

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

FLATE News



Manufacturing Month is Here: Plan Your Event Now!

Manufacturing Month 2026 kicked off on National Manufacturing Day, October 2, 2026! Have you scheduled your Manufacturing Month student tour to a local manufacturer? Let's show our students the many high-wage careers available and help grow the next generation of high-tech workers for the manufacturing industry that drives our economy.

If you have an event planned, please let us know so we can amplify the message so that everyone in Florida knows that **October is Manufacturing Month!**

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

Celebrate Manufacturing Month! Events for Students

Student Tours of Florida Manufacturers

In person Student Tours of manufacturing facilities across these counties:

- Hillsborough County
- Lake County
- Lee County
- Manatee County
- Nassau County
- Pasco County
- Pinellas County
- Santa Rosa County
- Sarasota County
- Sumter County

Register your event!

Manufacturing in Education Workshop Tallahassee, FL October 12, 2026



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

Students get a firsthand look at the exciting career opportunities available through interactive exhibits, hands-on experiences, and direct connections with local manufacturers. Inspire the next generation of talent and connect classroom learning to real-world careers.

Click this link to register your school today!

Manufacturing Day 2026 Hillsborough College October 23, 2026 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



St Johns River State College Career Fair October 22, 2026

Meet employers, learn about career opportunities, and network with professionals who are actively recruiting. Whether you're looking for an internship, a career opportunity, or simply want to explore what's available, bring copies of your résumé, dress professionally and be ready to make a great first impression.

BEAM: Building Excitement and Aspirations in Careers! St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus November 16, 2026



2026 Coolest Thing Made in Florida Competition Students Can Vote Now through October 23, 2026!

After months of head-to-head voting, from 125 products representing all 67 Florida counties, the competition is down to two:

- Arthrex's TightRope® PRO from Collier County and
- Northrop Grumman's E-2D Advanced Hawkeye from St. Johns County

Your students can view all the great products made in Florida and vote on the final winner!



Vote here

Fall 2026 ET Forum

The 58th ET Forum, held on September 10–11, 2026 at Palm Beach State College's Boca Raton Campus, welcomed new faculty and featured a wide range of professional learning and statewide updates designed to help educators strengthen Engineering Technology programs and prepare students for high-demand technical careers.

Featured sessions and discussions included:

- Statewide Engineering Technology program updates and college highlights.
- Updates on the NSF-funded Strengthening Workforce Ecosystems initiative, a partnership involving FLATE/FloridaMakes, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Gulf Coast State College, St. Petersburg College, and the University of Florida as the lead institution.
- The BILT Process, presented by CORD, supporting industry-informed curriculum development.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) for educators, highlighting emerging tools and opportunities for teaching and learning.
- Updates from the Florida Semiconductor Institute (FSI) on initiatives supporting Florida's next-generation STEM and NASA aerospace skilled technical workforce.

Read full article

Save the Dates: Spring 2027 ET Forum
April 15-16, 2027 - Valencia College (Orlando)



Engineering Technology Faculty: Are there topics that you would like to see addressed at the next ET Forum? Please forward your ideas for the Spring 2027 ET Forum to Ernie

Friend at ernie.friend@flate.org.

Opportunities & Professional Development

Professional Development: FSI Semiconductor Course for Faculty and your Students: Sign up Now! Free Course Available until December 2, 2026

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

CREATE Energy Center $500 Stipend for Innovative Ideas from Energy Educators

For the past six years, CREATE's Call for Innovative Ideas has spotlighted outstanding faculty contributions—from integrating new technologies to engaging students with industry-relevant tools and hands-on learning. You can find last year's winning presentations **here** for inspiration.
Whatever's working in your classroom — big or small — especially ideas related to:

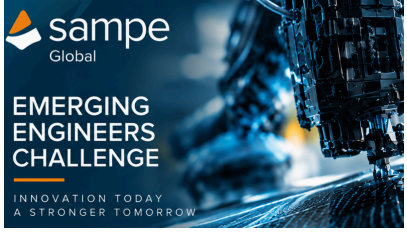
- Student Recruitment and/or Retention
- Tools, Technology, and Equipment
- Current "hot" Energy Trends like AI, Nuclear, Battery Storage & Geothermal
- Industry and Career Alignment
- Other Strategies to Enhance Teaching and Learning (e.g., project-based learning, competency-based assessment, OER
-

Not sure which category fits? Submit anyway — we're happy to help you find the right home for it. To participate, please submit a one-page description of your idea and its impact on your students or program. Submissions are due by Friday, November 13, 2026, to Gabrielle Temple, CREATE Communication Director, at **gabrielle.temple@canyons.edu**

2027 Emerging Engineers Challenge Submit by November 1, 2026

This year's theme, "Innovative Frontiers in Advanced Manufacturing," challenges teams to select a component and propose an innovative approach to improve its manufacturing

process. Solutions may incorporate advanced materials, robotics, data analytics, machine learning, or other emerging technologies to demonstrate a meaningful improvement in how the component is manufactured.



Do you have a project in progress? Submit a 2-minute video by November 1, 2026. The top three teams will receive industry mentorship and advance to the Live Final at JEC World 2027 in Paris, where they'll present their solutions before an international panel of SAMPE judges.

Details here

2027 Chip in Florida: K-12 Semiconductor Education Challenge Now Open for Registration

Calling all Florida educators! The Chip in Florida : K-12 Semiconductor Education Challenge is back, and registration is now open! We're inviting public, private, charter and homeschool students statewide to participate in a hands-on introduction to the technology powering our modern world.



We provide access to the necessary curriculum resources to introduce semiconductor concepts, guiding you and your students through the challenge. You bring the idea, and we'll bring the opportunity that inspires what comes next.

Register here



Resources

Free Course Development Software for the FLATE Community

Course Builder+ 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**

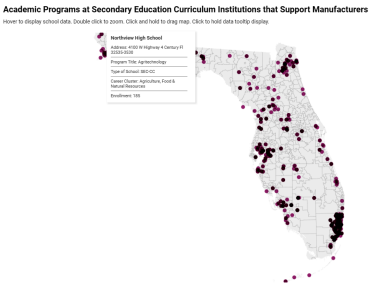
Click here for a course on how to use Course Builder+! This was created in the tool so you can see what it can do. If there is a cost, use the coupon FLATE for 100% off the

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

FLORIDA FLATE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION CENTER

flate.org

FLATE's wiki ...full of great FREE RESOURCES for you!

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www. Made in FLORIDA .org

[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:

Sept 2026 Focus | July/August 2026 Focus | June 2026 Focus | Newsletter Archive

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