

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

# TODAY

Powered by Florida's Public School District Postsecondary Technical Education System



Building



Connecting



Leading

## Postsecondary Schools Edition

Skills for work—skills for life—skills for a stronger Florida

### Issue I

December 2007

#### ■ Careers Soar in Travel & Tourism

Traveling can be fascinating. What if your career offered opportunities to see different parts of the world?

One Florida technical center's Academy of Travel and Tourism prepares students for careers providing just that—opportunities to see the world. Students take courses in Destination Geography, Travel Career Developments, Airline Online Computers, Professional Tour Escorting, Sales and Marketing, and more. After completing the program, students start careers as travel consultants, tour escorts, airline and cruise line representatives, or even travel writers and photographers. The completion of the course renders students fully qualified for jobs in the travel and tourism industry. And what would a travel program be without a chance to actually go see the world? Class participants have experienced a cruise to Mexico and trips to China and Costa Rica.

Travel and Tourism students don't let the excuses of not enough money or too little time get in the way of their dreams of adventure. They ask the same question asked by travelers the world over: who knew one earth could hold so many different worlds?



#### ■ Up Next: Patrick's Grand Tour

As a graduate of a Florida technical center Academy of Travel and Tourism, Patrick Versace is grateful for a whole new world of opportunities. Having worked in hospitality for years, Patrick's longed to fulfill his dream of traveling. By choosing the Academy of Travel and Tourism, Patrick gained the education and experience vital to supporting his dream.

Patrick was recently inducted into the National Technology Honor Society. In June he competed at the national level of SkillsUSA in Kansas City, walking away with the only Gold Medal Championship award in the Tech Prep Showcase across the nation. For the event, Patrick and his teammates developed a groundbreaking Travel and Tourism Training Facility—the first of its kind in the nation. Quite a feat!

Patrick's next dream involves traveling throughout Europe and explore each country's capitol, known in the industry as "The Grand Tour." Bon voyage and happy travels, Patrick!

Technical education impacts thousands of Florida's citizens every day. Citizens like Patrick, who has gained career skills in travel and tourism, so critical to Florida's economy. Florida's workforce is climbing a career ladder—a ladder built stronger by Florida's 144 regional technical centers.



Florida's minimum wage: **\$6.79** (January 2008)

Florida's average wage for an experienced **travel guide: \$18.15**



Source: Florida Research and Economic Database



# Technical Education TODAY

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## ■ Careers in the Machining Industry

How many things do we use throughout the day without understanding how they work? How are they made? We drive our cars all over town, but many of us don't know the first thing about its parts and the processes happening inside. Can you even fathom how many thousands of parts it takes to create an airplane? Where do these parts even come from?

Surprisingly enough, machines make machine parts. A machinist is one who uses certain tools to make and modify parts for other machines. The machine cuts away extra material, forming the parts and pieces needed for a wide variety of bigger machines that we use everyday. Just as a carpenter works with wood, a machinist works with metal or plastic.

When manufacturers want to produce a large number of the same part, a computer numeric control (CNC) machine is used. It's actually a "controller" that directs each movement of the machine tool as it cuts away the metal, creating exact parts quickly and accurately.

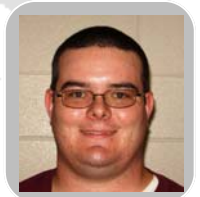
The machining technology industry is one of the highest-paying professions in America, and there is a great demand for skilled workers in this field. Florida technical centers offer Machining Technology programs involving hands-on experience with CNC



machines and more. People who enjoy working with their hands enjoy this high skill career.

## ■ Racing into the Future

On Saturday nights you can find Joshua Hoey at the Desoto Super Speedway, working on the pit crew for a street stock racecar. But if it's a weekday morning, you'll find him at one of Florida's technical centers in the Precision Machining area. Joshua began his education in the drafting program. He enjoyed working with his hands and working with math. While attending classes at the technical center, Joshua worked part-time in a machine shop. There he discovered that taking a piece of raw material, such as cold rolled steel, and turning it into a finished product such as a C-clamp satisfied his need to use his math skills and work with his hands. The technical center's Precision Machining program offered exactly what he wanted and it was easy to transfer. Joshua is now in his second year in the Precision Machining program and has competed at the national level in SkillsUSA. He has earned a silver medal for his group presentation in the Manufacturing Tech Prep Showcase competition. Those two-dimensional printouts with dimensions and specifications are no match for this machinist as he races his way toward his dream job of owning his own machine shop where he will produce superior quality race car parts. The green flag is waving...ready, set, GO!



Featuring

# Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

## High-Tech Training, Real-World Jobs

Dave Grenier brings 36 years of real-world experience to his Precision Machining classroom at a Florida regional technical center. He knows the value of hands-on training and enjoys working with young people, shaping the workforce of the future. His class focuses on the



hows and whys of machining, connecting classroom work with real skills for real jobs. In fact, Dave has set a record **100% job placement** of all students who have completed the course. He not only works with students, he also maintains relationships with area businesses to ensure students learn what employers need. Dave routinely meets with the Advisory Committee for Machining at the technical center. This committee is comprised of several area businesses such as Sun Hydraulics, S & B Metal Products, and ETCO, Inc. Several huge pieces of expensive machining equipment are on loan from the Hardinger Corporation.

Having these state of the art Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) machines on property offers the advantage of concentrated training, cutting-edge technology, and practical experience. In addition, students complete the program certified in First Aid, OSHA safety

standards, and lift truck operations. The Precision Machining program is the place to build careers, and Dave Grenier is the man for the job.

**“Dave has set a record 100% job placement of all students who have completed the course.”**

**“To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key to happiness.”**

*John Dewey*

## Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
<b>Minimum Wage</b> (January 2008)	<b>\$6.79</b>
Machinists	\$18.83
Tool and Die Makers	\$21.41
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$22.87
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand	\$14.15
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine	\$14.00
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal	\$16.63
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators	\$14.32
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machining	\$15.47
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Mechanics	\$30.51
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production	\$29.85
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	\$18.02

Source: Florida Research and Economic Database



## Your Florida Technical Centers

**Thomas P. Haney Technical Center**  
Bay County Schools

**Bradford-Union Technical Center**  
Bradford County Schools

**Atlantic Technical Center**  
**Sheridan Technical Center**  
**William T. McFatter Technical Center**  
Broward County Schools

**Charlotte Technical Center**  
Charlotte County Schools

**Withlacoochee Technical Institute**  
Citrus County Schools

**Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology**  
Collier County Schools

**Miami Lakes Educational Center**  
**Robert Morgan Educational Center**  
**Lindsey Hopkins Technical Education Center**  
**George T. Baker Aviation**  
Miami Dade County Schools

**DeSoto Family Education Center**  
**Workforce Education and Support Services**  
DeSoto County Schools

**A. Phillip Randolph Northside Skills Center**  
Duval County Schools

**George Stone Career Center**  
Escambia County Schools

**Gadsden Technical Institute**  
Gadsden County Schools

**D. G. Erwin Technical Center**  
**Aparicio-Levy Adult Technical Center**  
**Henry W. Brewster Technical Center**  
**Learey Technical Center**  
**Tampa Bay Technical Evening School**  
Hillsborough County Schools

**Lake Technical Center**  
Lake County Schools

**Lee County High Tech Centers**  
**Lee County High Tech Center North**  
**Lee County High Tech Center Central**  
Lee County Schools

**Lively Technical School**  
Leon County Schools

**Manatee Technical Institute, Main Campus**  
**Manatee Technical Institute, East Campus**  
Manatee County Schools

**Community, Technical and Adult Education**  
Marion County Schools

**Okaloosa Applied Technology Center**  
Okaloosa County Schools

**Westside Tech**  
**Winter Park Tech**  
**Mid Florida Tech**  
**Orlando Tech**  
Orange County Schools

**Technical Education Center Osceola**  
Osceola County Schools

**Marchman Educational Center**  
Pasco County Schools

**Pinellas Technical Education Center**  
**Clearwater**  
**Pinellas Technical Education Center**  
**St. Petersburg**  
Pinellas County Schools

**Traviss Career Center**  
**Ridge Technical Center**  
Polk County Schools

**First Coast Technical Institute**  
St. Johns County Schools

**Radford M. Locklin Technical Center**  
Santa Rosa County Schools

**Sarasota County Technical Institute**  
Sarasota County Schools

**Suwannee-Hamilton Technical Center**  
Suwannee County Schools

**Taylor Technical Institute**  
Taylor County Schools

**Walton County Vocational Technical Center**  
Walton County Schools

**Washington-Holmes Technical Center**  
Washington County Schools



**Technical Education Today** is a collaborative effort of the Florida Leadership for Career & Technical Educators (FLCTE), a division of the Florida Association for Career & Technical Educators (FACTE). For more information contact:

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