

TODAY

Postsecondary Schools Edition

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

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■ A Second Chance at Success

“We’re here to help you!” is the motto that Dr. Linda Bakonyi starts the morning off with every



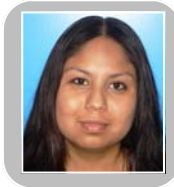
day. Dr. Bakonyi’s appreciation for education, attention to detail, and belief that everybody deserves a second chance is the foundation for her efforts with Manatee Technical Institute’s award winning General Education Development (GED) Program.

As the GED Program Manager for the past six years, Dr. Bakonyi is proud of MTI’s standards that exemplify best practices in the delivery of the GED testing service. As a result of these standards, MTI has earned the status of Model GED Testing Center Station.

This is the perfect job fit for Dr. Bakonyi—helping people achieve a foundation for their lives so they can earn a high school diploma, learn a trade, earn a living, and support a family. MTI’s GED program offers preparation books, encourages class participation, and provides special accommodations when needed. Last year over 1,000 people tested through MTI’s GED program. Dr. Bakonyi makes a difference by giving others a second chance—every day.

■ Effort and Honors

Nancy Santana is a thankful young woman who knows all about second chances. She attended a local high school but missed many days of school due to illness. After missing so much, she was unable to graduate because she did not pass the FCAT exams.



While recuperating from a successful liver transplant at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Nancy had plenty of time to make her plans for a brighter future. Her first priority is attending the GED preparation classes at a local technical center. After passing the GED exam, Nancy will continue her enrollment at the technical center to gain the skills she needs to become an administrative assistant.

Nancy was recently nominated for the technical center’s Effort Award and the National Honor Society. She is taking a second chance at life and a second chance at education. Giving back, inspiring others, and making connections with others in a health care setting is now an attainable goal for this remarkable and resilient young woman.



Technical education is a vital bridge reaching students who may not at first succeed in school. Health issues, pregnancy, learning disabilities, or simply having a brain wired only for hands-on learning—any of these situations may pose obstacles to success in traditional high schools. Technical centers can reach these students with relevant, real-world learning and launch them immediately into the workplace with in-demand skills.

Florida can’t afford *not* to support its nearly 50 technical centers.

Florida’s minimum wage: \$6.79

Florida’s average wage for an experienced **executive secretary and administrative assistant: \$20.94**



Technical Education TODAY

expand a future pursue a passion express success

■ 100% Success Rate!



Working in a physician's office requires many skills. Jane Arnoldi, Medical Assisting (MA) teacher at a regional technical center, emphasizes the need for her students to be knowledgeable, patient, understanding, and fair. Her program has earned an excellent reputation with a strong history of graduating well-trained medical assistants who possess hands-on experience, are equipped to function in almost any physician's office, and have mastered skills in critical thinking.

Before arriving in Jane's core Medical Assisting class, students have already completed Introduction to Health Occupations, Anatomy & Physiology, and Medical Terminology prerequisites. The core class, which progresses over eight months, has a low teacher-student ratio that enhances the learning process and lends itself to building trust and confidence. Students follow up the core class with a 220-hour internship in a participating physician's office. Upon

completion of the internship, students are then eligible to sit for the Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) exam. Last year's class enjoyed a 100% success rate!

Jane Arnoldi's medical assisting program is a win-win for students and the medical community.



■ More Options, Better Pay

Julie Perdomo has experienced a whirlwind of change. After recently relocating from New Jersey, Julie immediately enrolled in the local technical center's Medical Assisting (MA) program. Having previously worked as a receptionist in a physician's office, Julie enjoyed helping people and wanted a career in the medical field but she knew she needed a better paying job. The MA program proved to be a perfect fit. Julie spends her days attending class and studying. Squeezing in some time for bike riding and exercise is a priority for maintaining good health for this self-professed nutrition label reader.



After finishing the Medical Assisting program, Julie would like to further her education and explore alternative jobs available in the fields of radiology and nuclear medicine. Starting out at the technical center has opened up a whole new range of options for Julie to building a strong and successful career in the medical field.

Featuring

Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

■ Something to Smile About



Kimberly Bland graduated from Manatee Technical Institute's Dental Assisting program 26 years ago and now serves as its program director. A leader in her field, she serves as President of the national American Dental Assistants Association and as Florida State Regional Advisor for the postsecondary Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA).

Kimberly enjoys sharing her passion with students. "Everybody has the ability to learn," she said. "It's my job to find out how students best learn and then tailor the instruction to meet their needs." She helps young people overcome challenges and find value in the career of dentistry. Many students start with dental assisting as a stepping-stone to furthering their education, becoming dental hygienists or lab technicians. Last year's Dental Assistant class experienced 100% job placement upon completion of the program. Now that's something to smile about!

■ Savvy Student

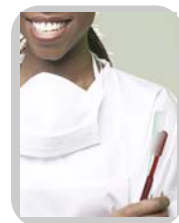


Breoana Seguy is focused. At 17, she attends a technical center full time and works part time. Breoana is also a single parent who desires to give her child a good life.

She knew that she needed a respectable job in a short time, so she enrolled in the Dental Assisting program.

As a star student, Breoana embraces the up-to-the-minute knowledge and the opportunity to become

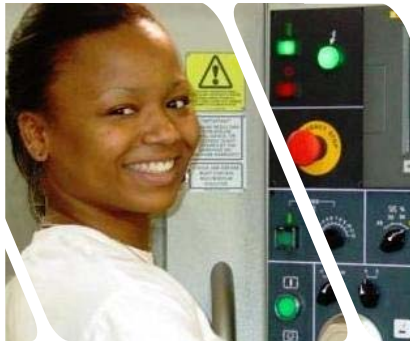
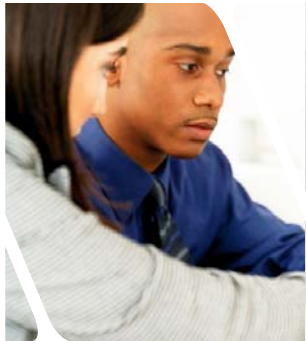
a certified dental assistant. She keeps her new skills sharp by competing in Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and SkillsUSA events. HOSA is a career leadership organization and SkillsUSA is an organization designed to ensure that America has a highly skilled work force. Breoana is also a student member of the American Dental Assistants Association. She has become a savvy student on her way to being able to support her young family.



■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$6.79
Dental assistant	\$17.50
Dental Hygienists	\$31.48
Dental Laboratory Technicians	\$21.82
Medical Laboratory Technicians	\$20.50
Medical Assistants	\$14.69
Medical Equipment Preparers	\$12.94
Medical Secretaries	\$14.96
<i>Salaries based on experienced workers</i>	

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

Flagler Technical Center
Flagler 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 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 Technical Educational Center
Pasco County Schools

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

Traviss Career Center
Ridge Career Center
Polk County Schools

First Coast Technical College
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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