

TODAY

Postsecondary Schools Edition

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

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■ A Crucial Career Move



With the downturn in the economy, Jorge Gonzalez is not wasting time in learning a new career. He walked

away from the housing industry and straight into his county technical center's brand new Surgical Technician program.

"I observed an open-heart surgery. It was amazing, just unbelievable!" he says. "I love the field of surgery and being part of a crucial surgical team. You need manual dexterity, organizational skills, focus, and a strong stomach."

Jorge is now learning in the simulated Operating Room (OR) on campus. This OR setup is a replica of what you would find in any surgical setting. It includes anesthesia equipment, suction machines, monitors, and mayo instrument stands. Students practice sterile techniques and draping the patient. Jorge's goal is to be so proficient in his job that he will be able to anticipate what instrument the surgeon will need for each procedure without the surgeon having to ask for it.

Jorge plans to continue his education and become a Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA), a specialized nurse who provides a higher level of technical assistance during surgery.

■ New Career Programs Meet Community & Workforce Needs

Florida technical institutes continue to respond to the educational and workforce needs of the communities they serve. One technical center is opening two new career preparation programs in the health occupations field based on current local targeted demand and the recommendations of its health advisory committee. Coordinating this groundbreaking effort is Diane Mathe, Continuing Education and Program Manager at the center's healthcare campus.



The Surgical Technician program began this past January. Students started with the core program and progressed to courses in central supply, anatomy and



Technical centers across Florida work together with business leaders to meet the changing needs of the workforce. Curriculum and programs are not offered by chance—instead, occupational and economic trends determine the programs offered. Technical centers respond to the demand.

Meanwhile, technical centers continue to extend a helping hand to the disadvantaged, thus improving the welfare of the community at large.

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes a technical center to educate the child—and the village.

Florida's minimum wage:
\$6.79

Florida's average wage for an experienced
Surgical technologist:
\$20.13



Technical Education TODAY

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■ New Career Programs, cont.

physiology, and surgical techniques. Clinical learning experiences in an operating room are an integral part of the program. Students must view a minimum of eighty surgical cases as part of their training.

Several area hospitals and practitioners have partnered with this technical center, affording the students many unique opportunities to explore the surgical fields that are best suited to them. This new Surgical Technician Program meets the standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

Next at this technical center, area students will soon have the option of enrolling in the new Optometric Assisting program. Keep your eyes on that one!



■ Opening New Doors to Success



Walking through Dr. Dianne Perry's door is a life-altering event for many people. As the New Options Coordinator at the local technical center, Dr. Perry loves what she does and delights in the opportunity to help others in her remarkable career.

New Options is designed to provide displaced homemakers and other disadvantaged adults a second chance at a career. Four years ago Dr. Perry came to the center from USF where she was the Coordinator of the Counselor Education masters program. Her objective now is to guide New Options program participants

towards matching their personalities and interests with a career path that is right for them.

With an abundance of warmth and generosity of spirit, Dr. Perry provides support, encouragement, and opportunity to the 100 students currently enrolled. Under her direction, the program offers workshops that emphasize role-playing, resume writing, interviewing skills, dressing for success, and finding passion and power to succeed in a new career. Participants prepare for job interviews with fresh haircuts and manicures from the technical center's cosmetology program. They visit the Women's Resource Center to choose three outfits to wear for interviews, all at no cost. New Options and Dr. Dianne Perry have joined together to contribute to the success of each participant on the journey to financial independence.

Featuring

Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

■ Migrant Education Offers Hope



Esperanza Gamboa is full of hope. Through her position as Coordinator of the migrant and youth education program at a regional technical center, Esperanza offers hope every day. Each day is different as she tries to help others improve their lives, reach for their dreams, and fulfill their potential. She shares her motto, “If I can do it, you can do it!” and encourages students and families to believe in themselves and pursue education. It helps that she knows what they are going through after her experience as a former farm worker in Cuba.

Esperanza enjoys an excellent working relationship with local farm and ranch owners. She travels to various migrant sites to promote job skills training, pesticide protection training, and healthcare. Esperanza also conducts presentations on parenting education. She runs a summer program emphasizing dropout prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, and domestic and gang violence awareness.

Esperanza’s philosophy has evolved from meeting people from all over the world and revolves on the principle of respect. As she meets people from many countries, she respects their culture, religion, and traditions. She also respects the U.S.

“I love this country from the bottom of my heart,” she said. “It’s amazing!” By offering programs that support career education for migrant workers and their families, Esperanza and the regional technical center are helping to create a stronger, healthier community.

Something to think about...

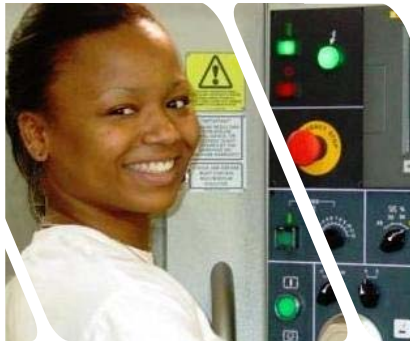
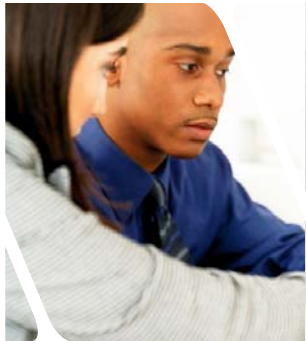
A cancer research lab at Johns Hopkins Medical Center in Baltimore belongs to Dr. Alfredo Quinones-Hinojosa — “Dr. Q.” He is one of the best brain surgeons in the world, but two decades ago, his hands were picking vegetables for \$22 a day. Quinones was a migrant worker, living under an old camper top in the middle of a California field. He is now an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Oncology and the Director of the Brain Tumor Program at The Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.

What a difference an education makes.

■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

| OCCUPATION | WAGES |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Minimum Wage | \$6.79 |
| Surgical technologist | \$20.13 |
| Medical appliance technician | \$20.30 |
| Optician | \$21.42 |
| Ophthalmic laboratory technician | \$15.60 |
| Adult literacy educator | \$27.66 |
| Farm management advisor | \$27.32 |
| Social worker | \$22.21 |
| <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



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