

# TODAY

Postsecondary Schools Edition

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

Issue **15** October 2008

## ■ Digital Champions at Work



Florida's technical centers prepare students for tomorrow's workforce, and students now have the opportunity to enhance their information technology (IT) knowledge through a newly offered New Media Technology program. At the head of the class is Ms. Vera Bourenina. Vera, a former computer engineer, says, "We cover any information that can be transmitted digitally. We teach desktop publishing, web design, digital design and rich internet application (RIA) using video, audio, and vector animation. This program is unique in that it combines advanced computer technology and creativity."

"My teaching philosophy is very simple—teaching to think and analyze, not to memorize; and teaching to integrate everything that is learned into



real-life projects. The students actually complete real world projects for the community."

Vera is an advisor for SkillsUSA, an international organization devoted to promoting excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education. Vera's students have consistently won gold medals at the SkillsUSA State and National levels. The SkillsUSA buzzword is "Champions at Work"—which truly describes Vera and her students.

## ■ A Place for a Lifelong Techie



Ryan Clark began his intense connection with computing when he was about four feet tall. "I've been coding since I was seven," Ryan says. "HTML, tag, body tag, taking a sequence of numbers and uploading them...creating web pages is my forte. I like to enhance the picture quality and design." In creating web pages, Ryan emphasizes spatial design while focusing on color and clarity. Is it clean and crisp?

## Looking Back, Moving Forward

Stamps were 4 cents; bread was 12 cents; gas was 25 cents a gallon; the median cost of a home was \$11,800; and the median income of a family of four was \$4,722. \$5,400 could buy a luxury Cadillac convertible. That was the 1950s, and we had just over four million people living in Florida. Today the median income of a family of four is \$65,024; the median cost of a house has risen to \$205,500; and that luxury Cadillac convertible will set you back \$82,690. Our state has grown to 18 million people. As we look towards the future, it is estimated that high tech careers will invade our state and the need for a highly technical, trained workforce will be critical to our economic success.



**Florida's minimum wage:**  
**\$6.79**

Florida's average wage for an experienced  
**Computer Programmer:**  
**\$38.90**



# Technical Education TODAY

expand a future pursue a passion express success



Does it please the designer's eye? Is it easy to use? Will clients be pleased?

Ryan graduated from a Florida high school last year where he took as many computer, art, and graphics classes as possible. He credits his business teacher and Future Business Leaders of America (FLBA) advisor Mrs. Cindy Reese with constantly challenging him to expand his knowledge and gain expertise. Ryan is now working towards industry certifications as a Certified Internet Web (CIW) professional, Master Designer, and Certified Flash Developer at the regional technical center's New Media Technology program. He then plans to earn a degree in web design and business management at a four-year university. Impressive!

## ■ Bringing Careers to Life

One Florida technical center just launched a new Hemodialysis Technician program that jump-starts its students into in-demand careers. This career is ideal for those self-described “people-persons;” those who enjoy working with state-of-the-art equipment; and those who want flexibility as part of their job. A hemodialysis technician is trained to operate equipment that removes waste material in blood for people with failing kidneys. They learn to both operate the machinery and write reports. A dialysis technician may work in dialysis centers, hospitals, or sometimes patients' homes.

Bringing this career to life at this technical center is instructor Ernest Waguespack. When asked, “What do you like most about the program?” Ernest replied, “The ability to teach a subject and technical skill only offered at one other facility in the state of Florida.” The course is designed to teach students theory as well as offer real world



clinical experience with a strong emphasis on understanding the why? behind the process. Ernest says, “I can teach most anyone what to do, but I feel it is more important that they can tell me why they are doing it.”

The Hemodialysis Technician program curriculum meets the guidelines for national certification. Graduates of this program may sit for the national phlebotomy certification examination.

Featuring

# Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

## ■ An Unexpected Career



Dave Olsen had not been to school in awhile. He had always worked outdoors and was busy with a career in golf course management and development. An unexpected injury precluded Dave from doing the work he had done all his life and he found himself in need of a career change. After contacting the Florida Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Dave stepped out of his comfort zone and started a new career at a regional technical center.

Dave is now enrolled in a new hemodialysis technician program. *Hemo* means blood; *dialysis* is the artificial replacement for lost kidney function. The dialysis machine acts as a kidney. It lets blood flow a few ounces at a time through a filter that removes wastes and excess fluids and then sends the blood back into the body. Hemodialysis is performed by trained medical technicians, and must be administered about three times per week for several hours each session, depending on the patient's size and health.

The hemodialysis technician program consists of 50% classroom theory and 50% clinical practicum alongside a mentor in a private dialysis facility. With empathy, compassion and good verbal skills, Dave is embracing this opportunity for a fresh start and is excited about the new direction his career is taking.

"I'm very pleased with this program," Dave said. "The instructor is straightforward. I can't wait to get to clinicals. I'll be developing confidence, expertise and understanding. I want to find out the why of everything we do. Change is good!"

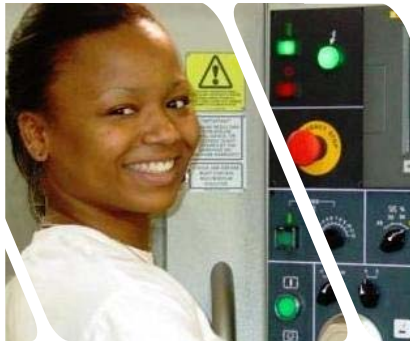
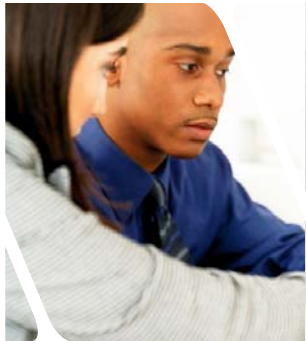
*"Learning is what most adults will do for a living in the 21st century."*

*Perelman*

## ■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$6.79
Medical lab technologist	\$27.93
Medical transcriptionist	\$16.52
Occupational health specialist	\$33.52
Physical therapist assistant	\$27.58
Computer support specialist	\$21.82
Database administrator	\$37.25
Network administrator	\$38.44
<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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