

TODAY

Postsecondary Schools Edition

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

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■ Career Fast-Track



Ask Nicholas Petroskey who his heroes are and he says, "My parents. They've always been there for me. They taught me right from wrong. They played a big part in me being where I am today." Nicholas is a junior at a regional Florida high school. Through Tech Prep Career Pathways and dual enrollment, he is working toward his high school diploma. Meanwhile, he is also attending the local technical center

working towards his Public Service Aid certificate in the 450-hour High School Criminal Justice Operations program. No doubt about it, Nicholas knows where he's going.

Fast-tracking his career to becoming a law enforcement officer, Nicholas plans to enroll in the technical center's Criminal Justice Academy's Law Enforcement Basic Recruit program. He is looking forward to working close to home and getting a start as a patrol officer. He then hopes to move up the ranks to the position of captain.



statewide academies sanctioned by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to train cadets in firearm proficiency, defensive driving, defensive tactics, first responder, and the academic areas of criminal justice. This impressive facility has classrooms designed to facilitate role-playing for courtroom appearances, domestic

■ To Serve and Protect



Patrick Proudler is a regional technical center's Law Enforcement Academy Public Service Coordinator. He is also a retired police department lieutenant who brings 20 years of on-the-job experience and 15 years of law enforcement teaching to his position.

The technical center's Law Enforcement Academy is one of 41

Tough Times, Top Skills

When unemployment rises and jobs are tough to find, real skills become more critical than ever. Florida's regional technical centers are preparing Florida's workforce to withstand economic hardships by equipping adult students with skills that mean something in a tight market. Law enforcement and culinary occupations explored in this issue are two examples of careers obtained in Florida's technical centers—and there are many more. Healthcare occupations, computer and networking certifications, mechanical and industrial skills, public service opportunities—all of these help Florida's workforce earn a living wage.

Your support of Florida's technical centers is important now more than ever.

Florida's minimum wage:

\$7.21 ^{new}

Florida's average wage for an experienced

Police Officer:

\$28.37



Technical Education TODAY

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violence incidents, and dynamic entry scenarios. A vehicle operations simulator stands at the ready. The defensive tactics room is fully encased in thick rubber. The state-of-the-art weight room easily accommodates several cadets at one time. Parked outside are two police cruisers. Graduates of the program are eligible to take

the State Certified Examination for Law Enforcement, a prerequisite for being hired as a law enforcement officer.

Lt. Proudler works closely with several area police agencies and the Academy Advisory Board to insure that graduates are trained, skilled, and ready to meet the needs of the community.

“To learn is to change. Education is a process that changes the learner.” George Leonard

■ Culinary Battle Plans



The local technical institute's Culinary Arts kitchens are a kaleidoscope of color, sound, smells, and action. Stainless steel ovens gleam. The rich enticing aroma of roasting beef tenderloin wafts through the air.

Students diligently pound, chop, peel, and roll various ingredients. The “battle plan,” or plan of action, is in place and at the head of the charge is Chef Garry Colpitts, unmistakable in his tall white chef's hat.

Chef Garry has been teaching at the technical center for nine years and runs the Culinary Arts program like a business. He teaches that communication, time management, and the ability to prioritize and organize are necessary components of an effective battle plan. Employees—a.k.a. students—need good knife skills and a good attitude.

This particular Culinary Arts program is accredited by the American Culinary Federation (ACF) and emphasizes nutrition, sanitation, and supervisory management. The fast-paced program is 85% practical and 15% theory. Employees research, write, and modify recipes.



Cost analysis is just as important as presentation and taste. Upon completion, students are prepared as professional cooks and are ready to test for ACF certification.

Featuring

Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs



■ How Sweet It Is

Diana Flores is taking the joy of being creative in the kitchen and turning it into her career. She has spent years in the kitchen learning the art of cake making and decorating from her mom. The process is fun—and oh so sweet—and has set Diana on an advanced course towards her future.

Diana is a high school senior. Her days alternate between high school where she is earning a high school diploma, and the local technical center where she is enrolled in the Culinary Arts program and earning college credits. This every-other-day dual enrollment program allows Diana to graduate from her high school while earning college credits that can be transferred to the local community college. These credits can then be applied towards an associate's degree in Industrial Arts. Upon completion of her associate's degree, Diana plans to attend the University of South Florida where she will invest two years of study and earn a bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. Fast tracking education in the 2+2+2 program is a win-win for Diana—and the pursuit of sweet success!



“Yeah, I'm a thrill seeker, but crikey, education's the most important thing!”

Steve Irwin

■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$7.21
Criminal Investigators	\$34.77
Fish and Game Wardens	\$20.76
Paralegals and Legal Assistants	\$25.29
Probation Officers	\$21.43
Private Detectives and Investigators	\$22.11
Bakers	\$12.98
Chefs and Head Cooks	\$26.86
<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:

Marsan Carr, Executive Director
FACTE
factexec@facte.org

Rose Martin, President
FLCTE
rmartin1@dadeschools.net

Lucy Hadi, Chancellor
FL DOE
lucy.hadi@fldoe.org

Article contributions may be sent to:

Doug Wagner—Director, Manatee County Adult, Career & Technical Education—wagnerd@manateeschools.net