

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

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Working Hard, Starting Over

Downsizing helps make the shift to a hands-on career

It was just a year ago that Kelli O'Malley needed to start over. After being downsized from her job at a human resources company, Kelli decided to go back to school and increase her marketable skills and knowledge. She registered for a Business, Management and Administration program at a regional technical center and wholeheartedly embraced the new start. It was during a required cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) class that Kelli realized her true passion.

"I realized I wanted a career with more action and more hands-on involvement," explained Kelli. "I didn't just want to do paperwork." She wasted no time and met with the school's support staff.

"My mentors are great! They never stop encouraging me to grow and learn. I completed my

Administrative Assistant program, took an evening class in phlebotomy, transferred to the healthcare campus, and am just completing the health science core certification part of the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program."



EMS instructor Lt. Bob Thayer and student Kelli O'Malley

EMT instructor Lt. Robert Thayer is proud of the center's EMT program and his students. "We produce a top-notch entry-level employee," he said. "We maintain a para-military atmosphere where professionalism and respect are practiced at all times. In this field it is very important to have strong critical thinking skills while still following protocol."

Bob continued, "Our EMT program stresses the importance of hands-on activities. Students are required to complete 60 hours of clinical rotation through a hospital emergency department along with

What We Do Best

As the State of Florida battles shrinking budgets, uncomfortable unemployment figures, and real challenges faced by our citizens, it's important to recognize the role that our technical centers play. These community institutions are the lifeblood of our workforce, training real people with real skills for real jobs. Our technical centers must continue to remain affordable, and must continue to flex with the pulse of local employers.

If childcare centers need more qualified caregivers, we'll supply them.

If communities need more emergency and healthcare personnel, we'll train them.

If manufacturers need welders and computer aided designers, we'll equip them.

It's what we do best.

What can *you* do to support our regional technical centers? Fiscally healthy technical centers means business, industry, and the citizenry can keep doing what they do best: working and living strong in Florida.

**Florida's minimum wage:
\$7.25**

Florida's average wage for an
experienced **Emergency Medical
Technician:**
\$19.25

Starting Over (continued)

ambulance ride-alongs. Students have the option to observe an autopsy, taking the understanding of the human body to a whole new level. These experiences better prepare students for what real emergency medicine is before they are in the field.”

Technical center staff and students work with an extensive collection of training equipment. Students practice extrication techniques from the school’s SUV vehicle. They practice taking patients’ vital signs such as blood pressure and pulse measurements while riding in the school’s ambulance. They also practice responses for a wide range of emergency scenarios using adult and infant simulators.



Now that Kelli is on track for a new career, she plans to earn her Certificate of Competency for EMT, take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam, and then continue her education in the technical center’s Paramedic program.

“This is the best education I have ever received,” Kelli exclaimed. “Anybody can do it if they reach out. If you are willing to work, you will succeed!”



Childcare Apprenticeship: A Career Advantage

Providing the community with quality childcare providers

Working in a childcare center requires a specific set of skills including patience, nurturing, good communication, and knowledge of early childhood growth and development. One regional technical center’s Early Childcare Education Apprenticeship Coordinator and instructor Sandra McCarthy ensures that childcare providers are not only proficient in classroom studies, but are able to correctly apply their knowledge in the classroom.

“The Early Childcare Apprenticeship Program was developed several years ago by a group of local childcare industry leaders who worked with us to create a program dedicated to providing the community with quality childcare providers,” said Sandra. “My job is to provide the apprentice with complete and intensive classroom

instruction based on a curriculum of competencies that meet the requirements of the apprenticeship state standards and the Department of Education (DOE) curriculum framework. The apprentice is then observed in the childcare setting where they must be able to apply and successfully perform each of the competencies.”

It was the nurturing and enriching environment that first attracted Juanita Rivera to volunteer in a military childcare facility. “The children are so special to me. I care for them as if they were my own,” she said. After the birth of her first child, Juanita pursued a job as a preschool teacher and officially began her career in childcare.

“I was working for three years when I learned about the childcare apprenticeship program,” Juanita said. “It’s really great because I like learning new ideas and then

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applying them in the classroom. The program is flexible and I also like that I am improving myself and becoming a better teacher.”

Apprentices completing this extensive program will earn the Florida DOE Child Care Apprenticeship Certificate (CCAC). This advanced credential is necessary to comply with the Florida law requiring one credentialed teacher per 20 children. It is also an important stepping stone in early childhood education career advancement and professional development.

Prospective students must meet stringent requirements to gain acceptance into the technical center’s ECE Apprenticeship program. Applicants must be at least 18, possess a high school diploma or GED, and be employed full time in a licensed childcare facility. The childcare

facility must be approved—or in the process of gaining approval— as an apprenticeship training site, and meet state apprenticeship standards. Program completers help meet the needs of community families and businesses who rely on quality childcare facilities staffed by a skilled workforce.



Preschool teacher and MTI apprenticeship student Juanita Rivera prepares for circle time

“I hear, and I forget.
I see, and I remember.”
I do, and I understand.
Chinese Proverb

Occupational Outlook: EMTs and Paramedics

Employment of emergency medical technicians and paramedics is expected to grow nine percent between 2008 and 2018, which is about as fast as the average for all occupations. Growth in this occupation is due in large part to increasing call volume due to aging population. Job prospects should be good, particularly in cities and private ambulance services.

Source: www.BLS.gov

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$ 7.25
Paramedics	\$17.76
Emergency Management Specialists	\$32.82
Fire Fighters	\$27.16
Ambulance Dispatchers	\$20.92
Childcare Workers	\$10.39
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	\$23.23
Preschool Administrators	\$32.33
Salaries based on experienced workers	



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

Aparicio-Levy Technical Center
D. G. Erwin 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



**Florida
Department
of Education**

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