



Building



Connecting

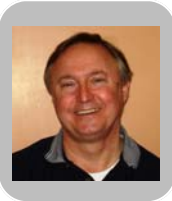


Leading

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

Issue **5** February 2008

■ Plumbing: Learning the Trade



For those interested in expanding their knowledge and credentials, a technical center plumbing program offers an excellent opportunity to learn the hands-on skills needed to be successful in this trade. The curriculum is all-inclusive and instructor John Kenney covers everything from reading blueprints and understanding building codes to pipe cutting and joining skills. Graduates of this program become National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certified, an industry driven standard that is recognized nationwide. The center also offers a plumbing apprenticeship program; graduates are eligible to apply for State Journeyman's certification.

John also serves as an advisor for SkillsUSA, a national organization devoted to maintaining America's skilled workforce while helping students excel. Last year, his center's SkillsUSA plumbing competitors came home with State gold medals in both plumbing and safety committee events. John enjoys working with young people. With patience, practice, and hands-on experience, John teaches his students a trade that provides strong prospects for gainful, high-wage employment.

■ Planning for the Future

Mickson Louis is determined to get

an education and build a thriving career. Unrest in Haiti prohibited his pursuit of a future in his native country. Unfazed by many obstacles, Mickson made his way to the United States. First, he tapped into his strong desire to help others and completed a technical center Nursing Assistant program. Becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) was a stepping-stone in his plans. Now, Mickson works as a CNA while enrolled in the center's Plumbing program. He is staying on track in his pursuit of a successful future. This past year at the SkillsUSA national competition in Kansas City, Mickson won the gold medal for his work in both the Solar Water Heating System event and the Safety event. After bringing home the gold, Mickson says, "I feel like I'm ready for anything!" With a strong work ethic and finely honed skills learned at the regional technical center, Mickson is well on his way to fulfilling his plans for a bright future.



Technical education impacts thousands of Florida's citizens every day. Citizens like Mickson, whose education is helping him earn a comfortable and living wage to support his family. Florida's 144 regional technical centers are building a stronger workforce—one graduating class at a time.

Florida's minimum wage: \$6.79

Florida's average wage for an experienced:

**Plumber—
\$19.95**

**Electrician—
\$20.30**



Technical Education TODAY

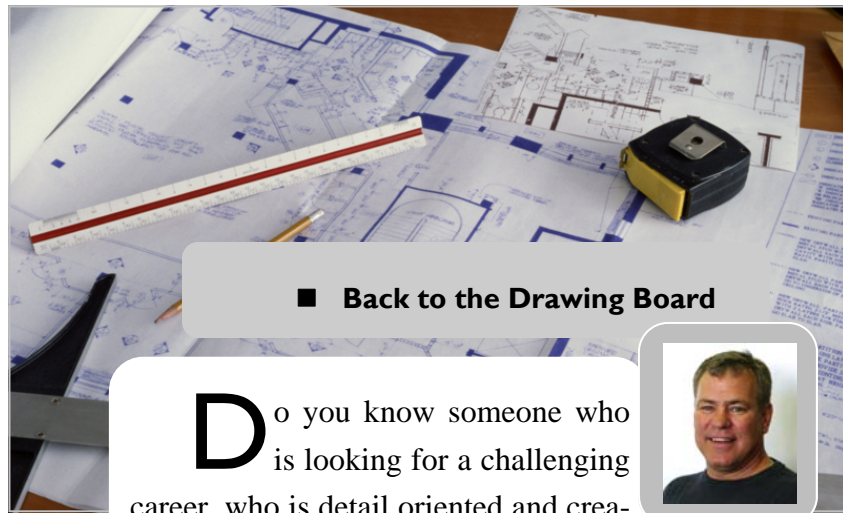
expand a future pursue a passion express success

■ Building a Fast Track to the Future



Nelson Cole may be only 19 years old but he has a long-standing connection with construction. In fact, his family has been working in the building industry as far back as ten generations. Nelson enjoys new construction, being around houses, and working with his uncle, contractor Randy Cole. Taking the fast track to his future, this 2006 high school graduate decided to enroll in a local technical center's Architectural Drafting program. While embracing the concentrated curriculum, Nelson is also buffing up his resume. He is an active member in two career and technical student organizations: Future Builders of America (FBA) and SkillsUSA. Nelson is looking forward to competing in the Architectural CAD event at the SkillsUSA regional and state levels. He is a committee member for the center's community service projects and has worked on Habitat for Humanity housing and Boys and Girls Club projects. Whatever the future holds for Nelson, it will include a strong work ethic and the love of computer drawing and design for the construction industry.

“...his family has been in the building industry as far back as ten generations...”



■ Back to the Drawing Board



Do you know someone who is looking for a challenging career, who is detail oriented and creative, and who likes to design and draw? Someone who enjoys being part of the collaborative process of bringing a structure from the dream to the design stage to the “*we did it!*” stage? If so, a regional technical center's Architectural Drafting program may be just what they're looking for. These programs offer a chance to expand one's opportunities to succeed in today's demanding and highly technical job market.

Ralph Vincent, Architectural Drafting instructor at a local technical center, brings enthusiasm to his classroom. Here, students start on the drafting board, where pencils and rulers are the mainstay. They soon progress to sophisticated computerized programs such as AutoCAD® and Architectural Desktop. Even a novice can become skilled under Ralph's guidance. His goal is to prepare students for the real world so they can earn a Drafting Certificate and AutoCAD User Certification. Then they can use their newly acquired skills with confidence as they secure employment in this exceedingly competitive job market.

Featuring

Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs



■ A New Chapter for Sheila Carter

Starting a new chapter in her life this past February was just the beginning for Sheila Carter. As a new student in a technical center medical assisting program, making friends came easy. While chatting with a classmate in her Anatomy & Physiology class, Sheila learned about New Options, a state program funded by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. New Options is designed to empower and assist those adults who meet specific criteria and are trying to enter the workforce. Qualifying for New Options unlocked a whole new world of support and guidance for Sheila, from obtaining financial aide to finding a fabulous home health aide job that she loves. She attends classes by day, works in the evening, and squeezes studying in between. Recently she job shadowed at the Blood Bank to find out more about careers in medical assisting. She is also active in the local chapter of Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) and was elected Vice President of the chapter. As Sheila struggles and juggles her new life and responsibilities, New Options is helping her build the strength and commitment from within that is essential to success.

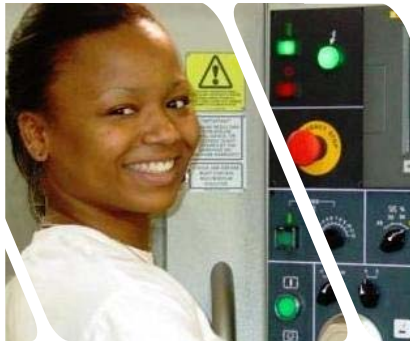
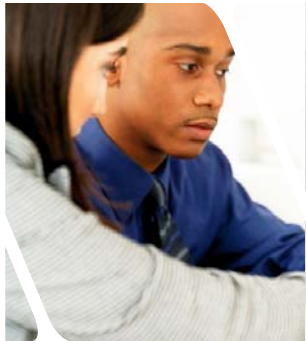


“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.”
Aristotle

■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$6.79
Plumbers	\$19.95
Plumbers Helpers	\$12.17
Architectural Drafters	\$24.44
Construction Managers	\$50.12
Surveying Technicians	\$18.12
Medical Assistants	\$14.47
Dental Assistants	\$16.80
Surgical Technologists	\$20.00
Veterinary Assistants	\$11.33
<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 Institute
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

Diane Culpepper, President
FLCTE
culpepd@ocps.net

Article contributions may be sent to:
Doug Wagner
wagnerd@ManateeSchools.net

Leslie Rowe
rowel@ManateeSchools.net