



Building



Connecting



Leading

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

Issue **7** March 2008

■ Students Complete Home Project for Disabled Residents

Traviss Technical Institute (Polk County) Future Builders of America (FBA) students recently completed a year-long building project—a handicapped friendly home for a transitional program called Noah's Ark. Noah's Ark's housing assistance program is designed to meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The recent ribbon cutting ceremony was a great accomplishment for the Traviss students as well as a huge step forward in the independence of the new residents.

Noah's Ark Corporation said that they were going to use the process that was developed as a model for involving schools or career centers in the future construction of Noah's Nest homes throughout Florida. Mr. Chris Hunt represented the Polk County Builders Association at the ceremony. Mr. Hunt spent five days working on the project and was impressed with the quality of Traviss students.

Students from both the Electricity and Air Conditioning programs did a great job on

the project. Bartow High School students did an excellent job making and installing kitchen cabinets built to meet handicapped specifications.

Traviss FBA students built a real house and made a real difference. All students that participated in this project now have concrete proof that they have the skills to be successful in their new careers.

■ Adult Ed: Diversity & Community

Because of their perseverance, these two students inspire others to reach new levels of education and career preparation.



Jean Claude Renelus

When political unrest threatened his safety, Jean Claude Renelus left his native Haiti seeking a new life in the U.S. He left status and position behind. With a master's degree in civil engineering, fluency in four languages, and a former job as Assistant Director of Haiti's Agricultural Ministry,

Traviss Tech's FBA students stand proud in front of the home they built for the Noah's Ark transitional home project.

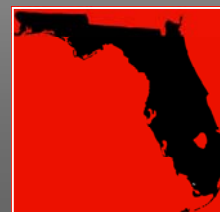


Technical education impacts thousands of Florida's citizens every day. Citizens like Claudia Ortiz who relied on her local technical center to learn English, study and obtain her GED, study and pass the U.S. citizenship exam, become a Certified Nursing Assistant, and pursue a Licensed Practical Nursing credential—ultimately contributing to Florida's need for more healthcare workers.

See inside for Claudia's story.

Florida's minimum wage: \$6.79

Florida's average wage for an experienced **Licensed Practical Nurse: \$20.72**



Technical Education TODAY

expand a future pursue a passion express success

(Continued from page 1)

Jean Claude has much to offer. He enrolled in a technical center's adult education program in English Literacy as well as Air Conditioning to help launch his career. Jean Claude jumped right in and joined SkillsUSA where he brought home the silver medal from the national competition in the Quizbowl event. He also tutors fellow students in math. "Helping is my background," he said, explaining that lending a hand is an important part of Haitian tradition.

Claudia Guzman Ortiz



When Claudia Guzman Ortiz arrived from Mexico five years ago, she knew that she needed to learn English to be successful. She immediately enrolled in her local technical center's adult education programs, starting with English Literacy. After completing all six levels, she progressed to the Adult General Education program and followed that up with earning a GED. Determined to continue her education, Claudia recently completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program and plans next to enroll in a Practical Nursing program. She has also completed the US

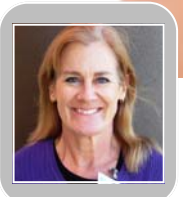
Citizenship Class through the center's Adult Education program and is proud to be a U.S. citizen.

Florida's technical centers prepare healthcare workers for careers in nursing, medical assisting, medical billing, emergency medical services, dental assisting, surgical technology, and more.



■ Massage Therapy: The Power of Touch

Nancie Yonker has always marched to a different drumbeat. Finding the connection between the body and health intriguing, Nancie decided to pursue a new career in massage therapy. After completing her training, she went on to practice as well as teach massage therapy. This social worker-turned-massage therapist had discovered her niche.



"Touch is so powerful and pervasive," Nancie said. As an instructor for a technical center's massage therapy program, she requires her students to personally experience a massage prior to beginning the course. From this point, Nancie's students embark on an intense program encompassing a variety of content ranging from anatomy and physiology to ethics and law. This strong core knowledge base merges with hands-on clinic experience, emphasizing mastery of skills, flow, and technique. Students who have completed the massage therapy program are eligible to sit for the National Board exams and upon passing, apply for State licensure. Through massage therapy, Nancie and her students bring the power of touch to life.

Featuring

Florida Postsecondary Technical Centers

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

■ Making Positive Changes

Frannie Kemble needed a life change. As the new head of her household with no job skills, Frannie turned to her technical center's New Options program for support. Frannie wanted to help people but was not sure on which career path she should focus. The New Options program helped her find direction, and after much thought and completing several assessment tests, Frannie developed a plan.



With the support of three sons, Frannie enrolled in the Massage Therapy program as well as the Esthetician Program—all while working part-time. These programs allowed Frannie to incorporate her nurturing sensibilities and scientific outlook into a profession that helps others by lowering stress and raising energy levels. This diligent woman's first order of business is to create an establishment that offers clients a soothing environment where they can receive a therapeutic massage and a rejuvenating facial. After that she hopes to branch out and become a Life Coach.

The programs offered by Frannie's local technical center gave her a chance to make a change, support herself, and provide a valuable business service to the community.

"As the head of her household with no job skills, Frannie turned to her local technical center for support."

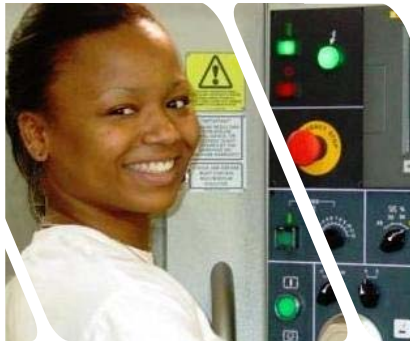
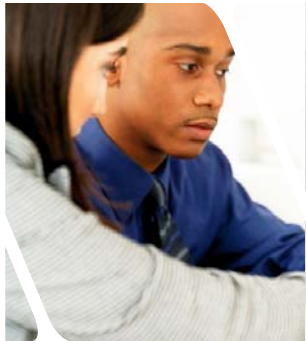
"The true way to render ourselves happy is to love our work and find in it our pleasure."

Francoise De Motteville

■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES
Minimum Wage	\$6.79
Construction Managers	\$50.26
Electricians	\$20.51
Heating A/C Technicians	\$20.01
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$20.72
Massage Therapists	\$21.61
Medical Assistants	\$14.55
Dental Assistants	\$16.89
Surgical Technologists	\$20.11
Emergency Medical Technicians	\$16.98
<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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