



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

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■ Preparing Students for Healthcare Careers



The Medical Arts & Sciences Academy at a local Florida high school provides students the opportunity to explore various career

tracks available in the health field. Academy team leader Laura Sollenberger teaches Medical Skills & Services, Health Science II, First Responder, and Allied Health. These classes allow Laura to introduce a wide variety of workforce pathways to students who are interested in exploring health related career options.

Laura also serves as the advisor for Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA), a national student organization dedicated to promoting career opportunities in healthcare and enhancing the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. Laura and her HOSA students recently attended the HOSA



National Leadership Conference in Dallas and returned home with a second place medal in Forensic Medicine and two top-ten places in Veterinarian Assisting.

Strong community backing from the medical field allows the Academy to further enhance students' experiences by offering several different career shadowing and internship options. This integrated approach to learning provides students with first-hand experience in the workforce world.



Tossing the Lifeline

If the sobering statistic continues—that almost a third of Florida's young adults will not finish high school—then these same young people will most assuredly remain underemployed. It is critical that our high school education system reach out to these underperforming students with hands-on, engaging career options. Providing relevant career and technical education and dual enrollment options gives these young citizens skills—and tosses them a lifeline from a future of poverty.

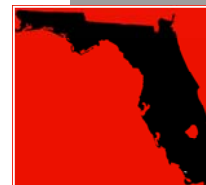
Florida's minimum wage:
\$6.79

Florida's wage for an experienced forensic science technician:
\$24.54

■ A Future in Medicine



Devan Cheaves is a remarkable young woman on her way to a fabulous future. When she joined Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) in the eighth grade, she realized she was interested in medicine. "I feel really connected to medicine. It's my forte," she said. So connected in fact, she used her district's school choice option to transfer to a high school that offered a Medical Arts & Sciences Academy.



Source: Florida Research and Economic Database



Technical Education TODAY

expand a future pursue a passion express success

■ Medicine, cont.

Fast-forward to 2008, and Devan has just graduated from high school. Her senior year was a whirlwind of opportunity. She completed an internship with Dr. Gerardo Lopez, an esteemed pediatrician. She participated in a job shadow experience at an elementary school clinic and at the regional hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). She attended Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine's medical camp, an intensive one-week camp focusing on anatomy and case-based learning.



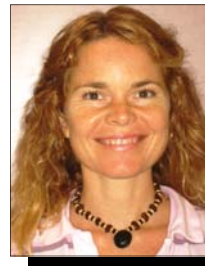
Devan, along with teammate Neliann Palomino, recently placed second in the nation in the Forensic Medicine event at the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Dallas and brought home her school's first ever national medal. Currently Devan is majoring in Biology and Spanish at FSU—and medicine is definitely the focus of her future.



Putting Florida on the map—Devan Cheaves and Neliann Palomino placed second in the nation in Forensic Medicine event at HOSA's National Leadership Conference. Both students graduated from a high school Medical Arts & Sciences Academy.



■ Pizza Journey through Agriscience



Kimberley Lough has turned her middle school classroom into a fascinating opportunity for students to learn about agriscience, food science, conservation, ecology, and future careers.

All sixth graders rotate through her agriscience class as part of the wheel—a group of classes that offer students a sampling of their future elective options. Kimberley takes each class on a “pizza garden journey” as they discover just how many steps are involved in creating a pizza while broadening their knowledge of agriscience. From the crust to the cheese to the meats, vegetables, and herbs, the process is far reaching. And let's not forget the marketing, forestry, animal, vegetable, and grain products. That 16” pizza translates into a real agriscience eye opener and a plethora of career opportunities.

Kimberley's classroom door opens up to another whole world of learning outside. On campus, students propagate plants, plant vegetable gardens, manage three composting bins, raise rabbits and free range chickens, and grow their own grapes for jelly.

Featuring

Florida Secondary Career & Technical Programs

Learn for life career dreams tomorrow's triumphs

Kimberley also serves as her school's FFA advisor. The National FFA organization is a Career and Technical Student Organization that promotes leadership and supports agricultural education. The organization, founded in 1928 as Future Farmers of America, now has nearly 501,000 members in over 7,000 chapters throughout all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

■ FFA: Fun and Futures



Zach Williams is in his third year in middle school and what an amazing three years it has been. In sixth grade Zach took Kimberley Lough's Agriscience class and discovered a whole new world. Zach joined FFA and never looked back. He had found his future.

FFA focuses on agriscience education, leadership, personal growth, and career success. Zach's favorite classes are math and science, but he says, "A little bit of everything fits into Ag! There are so many opportunities and business aspects. There's leadership, long-term plans, teamwork, and citizenship."

Zach served as his school's FFA chapter vice president last year and as president this year. The club competes in Career Development Events or CDEs. "Traveling is fun and you meet other students who are interested in the same stuff," said Zach. "We try to make it (FFA) fun! We have 40 to 50 kids in the club." Zach has competed in floriculture and vegetable judging CDEs and is looking forward to the FFA events at the local county fair.

"Tell me...

and I'll forget;



Show me...

and I may remember;

Involve me...

and I'll understand."

Chinese proverb

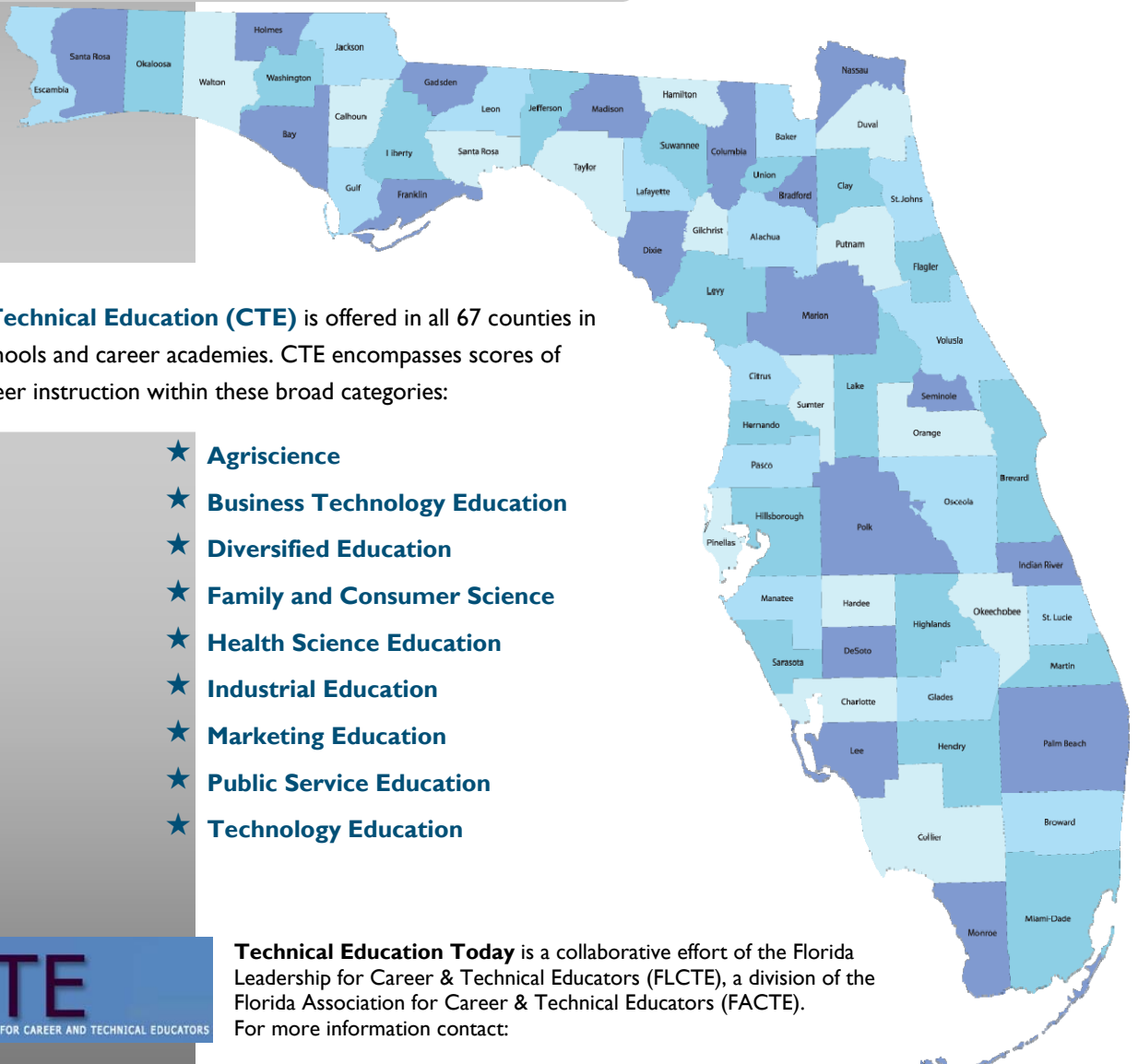
■ Florida Wages—Experienced Workforce

OCCUPATION	WAGES*
Florida's Minimum Wage	\$6.79
Cardiovascular technicians	\$22.92
Dental Hygienists	\$31.71
Diagnostic sonographers	\$30.75
Paramedics	\$17.98
Surgical technologists	\$20.13
Agricultural inspectors	\$22.38
Animal breeder	\$19.73
Farmer and rancher	\$39.03
Public conservation scientist	\$38.74

*Denotes experienced workers. Source: Florida Research and Economic Database



Secondary Career & Technical Education



Career and Technical Education (CTE) is offered in all 67 counties in Florida high schools and career academies. CTE encompasses scores of specialized career instruction within these broad categories:

- ★ **Agriscience**
- ★ **Business Technology Education**
- ★ **Diversified Education**
- ★ **Family and Consumer Science**
- ★ **Health Science Education**
- ★ **Industrial Education**
- ★ **Marketing Education**
- ★ **Public Service Education**
- ★ **Technology Education**

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