

School to Work—Are You Ready? Industry Certifications Can Help

Many high school students make plans to continue their education after high school. But did you know this sobering statistic? Ten years after high school, only 27% of students have completed a postsecondary (after high school) degree. That means that if a graduating class had 400 students in the year 2000, only 108 of them have earned a technical center or college degree by now.

Students who leave school with only a high school diploma find it difficult to support themselves. Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) is providing an indispensable service to our community by offering the opportunity for students of any age to achieve degrees or certificates in high-skill, high-wage career areas in about a year's time. In Manatee County, both high school and MTI students often have the opportunity to earn **industry certifications**, becoming more competitive in a global labor market.

Industry certifications, sometimes referred to as credentials or skills standards, are "statements of knowledge, skills, and abilities required to complete a task, a critical function, or a complex range of multiple tasks and functions" (Manufacturing Industries Career Alliance, 2001). People can become certified by trusted experts and prove through testing that they meet standard quality expectations, so there's no guessing whether they are capable of doing a job.

Earning an industry certification means that students—who quickly graduate and become jobseekers—become equipped with solid skills that help them earn a living wage.

Are you a high school student interested in becoming certified in a career skill? Ask your career advisor, academic advisor, or guidance counselor about adding career and technical education (CTE) courses to your class schedule. Ask those CTE teachers about industry certifications. Inquire about *dual enrollment*, the ability to enroll in a career skill program at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) while still in high school. Get informed about all of your options—and then get industry certified!

Industry Certified Teachers Lead the Way

Each summer in Manatee County, many teachers trade seats and become students again. Career and technical education teachers participate in annual *No Teacher Left Behind* training, and summer school this year is all about industry certifications. Participating teachers will attend school June 14-16, 2010, and will become certified in the following areas:

- New media technology: Adobe Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Premier Pro, or Flash
- Business technology: Microsoft Office 2007
- Horticulture: Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA) Level I or Level 2
- Architectural design: Chief Architect software
- 3-D computer aided design: Solidworks
- Television production: Apple Final Cut Pro
- Manufacturing technology: Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC)
- Agriscience: Veterinary assisting

As our teachers gain cutting edge technology skills, they in turn help students become industry certified, adding a "wow" factor to education in Manatee County.



BRHS Engineering teacher John Frank and students Mark Molyneaux, Hannah Yagudina, and Blake Hanes passed the Adobe Certified Associate national certification exam in Photoshop. The BRHS Pirates are proud!
Photo credits to BRHS teacher Dan Crumpler.

Congratulations on Certifications!

Many teachers throughout the district have earned industry certifications, but one of the most recent is Braden River High School Engineering teacher John Frank who just passed the Adobe Certified Associate national certification exam for Photoshop. We also wish to honor senior Blake Hanes, junior Hannah Yagudina, and sophomore Mark Molyneaux for being the first BRHS students of the year to earn their Adobe Certified Associate certifications in Photoshop. Mark finished his 50-minute certification exam in an astounding 19 minutes and achieved a high score! This official industry certification will help to open doors for these students as they enter the workplace and climb the ladder of success. Good luck to all of them; we are very proud of their achievements.

PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: ask you student if they are aware of career and technical education (CTE) classes in their high school. Broad categories of CTE classes include Agriscience, Business Technology, Diversified Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health Science, Industrial Education, Marketing, Public Service, Television Production, and Technology.
- ✓ Together, visit the Manatee Technical Institute website at www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org to explore the many career options available.
- ✓ For more information, contact Donna Puhlovich at Manatee Technical Institute at (941) 751-7900 ext. 2042 or email puhalovichd@manateeschools.net.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

- ★ What does it mean to earn an industry certification?

Answer: It means that an individual has proved through testing that they meet standard quality expectations and are capable of doing a particular job.

What's on the WEB?

www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org
www.ManateeACT.com
www.ManateeSchools.net