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Teachers Mastered Skills on Summer Break

Students are soon arriving on campus with new backpacks crammed with back-to-school essentials. What students don't realize is that many of their teachers went the extra mile this summer to master new skills needed in today's competitive workforce. Now these teachers will pass the skills along to students.

For the ninth consecutive summer, the Manatee County School District Adult, Career and Technical Education Department offered a series of workshops called *No Teacher Left Behind* (NTLB). This year's NTLB program offered career and technical education teachers a selection of five different workshops including Adobe Premier Pro, SolidWorks, Microsoft Word 2007, Podcasting, and Veterinarian Assisting.

For the first time, elementary teachers were also invited to participate. Cheryl McGrew, McNeal Elementary *Engineering by Design* teacher, presented a workshop called the *I³ Project*. The *I³ Project*, which stands for *Invention, Innovation and Inquiry*, was created to support elementary teachers interested in technological literacy. Each participant received the *I³* curriculum, a straw rocket launcher, and had three days to collaborate with fellow teachers. These teachers will continue meeting throughout the year to increase their skills in integrating science, technology, engineering, and math in the classroom.

At the head of the class for the Adobe Premier Pro workshop was Southeast High School technical education teacher Mr. Bob Burwell. An Adobe Certified Expert for Premier Pro and Encore, and certified in Television Production, Bob kept the five-day workshop so engaging that participants often worked through their breaks. Teachers who participated in this intense class received Premiere Pro CS4 video editing software for their classrooms.

The remaining four workshops were held at Braden River High School (BRHS) over a period of three days. BRHS business teachers Dan Crumpler (Adobe Dreamweaver and Photoshop certified) and Mary Thompson (PhD, Industrial Education) taught the Podcasting workshop. The 14 participants were delighted to receive a Roland Edirol portable MP3 recorder to take back to their classrooms.

Fellow BRHS business teacher Bill Gaynor taught Microsoft Office 2007. Bill, a Word 2007 Microsoft Certified Application Specialist, eFolio pioneer, and Oracle Academy Certified Instructor, tailored his workshop to meet the varying skill levels of the 18 enrolled teachers. Each participant received new Office 2007 software for their classroom.

SolidWorks, a workshop dedicated to teaching a 3-D Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) program, was also well attended with a total of 18 participants. Teachers labored over computers as they learned this complex, cutting-edge technology. Enthusiasm was contagious as they worked towards earning industry certification and planned strategies to incorporate their new skills into the classroom.

The Veterinary Assisting workshop was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the 16 teachers attending. This workshop featured two representatives from Animal Care Technologies (ACT), a leading provider in veterinary staff training resources. Teachers gained a concise, in-depth plan to institute a Veterinary Assisting program at the high school level. Participants—agriscience teachers from Manatee County and across the state—also enjoyed presentations from five other area speakers respected in their fields.

No Teacher Left Behind participants invested time and efforts to hone their skills on behalf of their students. By gaining industry certification and expertise in the use of new technology, our teachers are ensuring that Manatee County continues to be a leader in career and technical education in Florida and in the nation.



13 Workshop participants will integrate science, technology, engineering, and math into elementary school classrooms.



Learning 3D modeling in the SolidWorks workshop.



Participants from across the state learned how to implement a Vet Assisting program.



Mastering the art of video editing.



Gaining skills in Microsoft Word.



Podcasting participants received portable MP3 recorders.

PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: Parents, what career or technical class is your child taking in school? Are they working toward earning an industry certification? Discuss with your child how important it is to work hard and master new skills.
- ✓ Now that school is back in session, talk to your child about the need to develop good study skills. Designate a quiet spot to do homework. If they are using the computer for an assignment, talk to them about focusing on the homework, instead of doing homework *and* chatting with friends on Facebook.
- ✓ "If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." Benjamin Franklin

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What kind of software program is Solidworks?

Answer: 3-D Computer Aided Drawing (CAD)

What's on the WEB?

www.solidworks.com
<http://site.4act.com>
www.ManateeACT.com



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