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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in
 Education Presents
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High School/High Tech = High Success

Rachel Cammarano loves her job and enjoys working with the future leaders of America in a program called High School/High Tech (HS/HT). Rachel is a Transition Specialist for Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities (CHAC), and works closely with Manatee District guidance counselors, teachers, and students from Palmetto, Braden River, and Lakewood Ranch High Schools.

The HS/HT program is 100% grant driven and is dedicated to enriching the lives of high school students with disabilities. Participating students expand their views of higher education and high tech careers through interest surveys, job shadowing, field trips, and career exploration. Rachel builds relationships with her students based on trust, mentoring and motivation. She emphasizes academic tutoring, career path planning, leadership training, community service, and hands-on employment experiences. In the program, students visit high tech employers and travel to colleges near and far such as Manatee Technical Institute, Manatee Community College, University of South Florida, University of Central Florida, St. Petersburg College, Full Sail, and Florida Gulf Coast University. The High School/High Tech program equals high student success!

KIDZ
Biz
& Buzz

Future Bound

James Loggins, an 18 year-old senior at Lakewood Ranch High School, is a hard working, goal-oriented student. His strengths include English, Liberal Arts and Agriculture. James enjoys mentoring other students, playing his guitar, writing short stories and song lyrics, and anything to do with ranching. He has held officer positions in FFA, an agricultural leadership organization, and the Performance Poetry Society. James is a member of the Quill and Scroll Club and is currently working on obtaining a Florida Ready To Work credential. "I feel like a million bucks!" James says. But it wasn't always like that.

James has ADHD and Asperger's, a condition that involves difficulties with communication and social interaction. His message is clear. "Kids with disabilities are stereotyped. We're regular people. We have thoughts, feelings and emotions." With help from teachers, family and Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities High School/High Tech Program, James steadily prepares for the future. "I don't know where I'm bound, but I do know where I want to go."

InnoVators



Community Partnerships Link Careers to Students with Disabilities

For Students: High School/High Tech

Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) is a community-based partnership made up of students, parents and caregivers, businesses, educators, and rehabilitation professionals. High school students with all types of disabilities, between the ages of 14-22, are encouraged to participate. HS/HT sites across the state link students to a broad range of academic resources, career development opportunities, and on-the-job experiences that will enable them to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce.

- During the 2007-2008 school year, the Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) Program served 1408 students with disabilities in 36 Florida counties.
- 206 high school students (representing all grades) secured employment.
- The Florida HS/HT Program experienced less than 1% dropout rate compared with the state average of a 5% dropout rate for students with disabilities.
- Florida HS/HT students entered postsecondary education at over three times the rate of other Florida graduates with disabilities.
- In Manatee County, 75 high school students with varying exceptionalities and disabilities participate in High School/High Tech.

HS/HT has been shown to reduce the high school dropout rate and increase the overall self-esteem of participating students. The program helps capture an enthusiasm for hands-on work experiences of students with disabilities, and helps them target their education to pursue technical skills and a career right here in our own community.

For Businesses: Florida Business Leadership Network

One in five Americans has a disability and in Florida alone there are an estimated three million disabled individuals. Of those three million people, close to 600,000 are unemployed and yet are able to work. These are just a few facts that Manatee County School District employees Diane Roberts and Stewart Bergmann are bringing to the attention of local employers. Advocating for Exceptional Student Education is Diane Roberts, Florida Diagnostic Learning Resources System/Transition Specialist and Stewart Bergmann, Option 2 Job Coach/On-The-Job Training Specialist. Together Ms. Roberts and Mr. Bergmann are working with local businesses and organizations to develop and implement the Manatee County Chapter of the **Florida Business Leadership Network**. This organization works to increase employment opportunities for Floridians with disabilities in their own communities and is a valuable resource in promoting diversity policies and hiring practices that target candidates with disabilities. Together the Manatee County School District and Florida Business Leadership Network are building strong working relationships with the community and tapping into the workforce of qualified workers with disabilities. For more information about the new Business Leadership Network, contact Diane Roberts at robertsd@manateeschools.net or 941-708-8770 ext. 2186.

DISCOVER
the
Future

Regional Careers: Various occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Minimum wage	\$6.79	--
Mechanical Drafters	\$17.07	\$23.69
Landscaping Managers	\$13.11	\$24.62
Benefits Specialists (Human Resources)	\$16.59	\$28.20
Rehabilitation Counselors	\$13.26	\$21.97
Database Administrators	\$20.96	\$35.97
Health Technologists	\$14.73	\$22.66

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com> FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in any of these areas can find related educational programs at these schools*:

Manatee Technical Institute
 Manatee Community College
 University of South Florida

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB
Wise

Check out the following websites:

www.usbln.org
www.abletrust.org/hsht
www.ManateeACT.com (click "ESE Transitions")
<http://chachaven.com>

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Explore
IT

Match the term with its definition.

1. Autism
 2. Asperger's syndrome
 3. Down syndrome
 4. Dyslexia
 5. Developmental apraxia
- a. A learning disability evidenced by difficulty with written language.
 - b. A brain development disorder characterized by impaired social interaction and restricted, repetitive behavior; starts before age 3.
 - c. A chromosomal disorder often associated with some impairment of cognitive ability and physical growth.
 - d. A disorder that affects a person's ability to acquire speech.
 - e. A disorder characterized by difficulties in social interaction.

Answers: 1b, 2e, 3c, 4a, 5d



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