



Tech Prep Career Pathways EXPRESSIONS

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Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium Collaboration In Action

We are often asked, “What is the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium?” or “Do you provide computer training?” In case you were also wondering but had not asked, the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium is an entity comprised of the Manatee County School District, the Sarasota County School District, and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF). This Perkins-funded consortium exists to provide a seamless transition from high school to community college and beyond for career and technical education (CTE/ACT) students.

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Carol Lewis, Tech Prep/Career Pathways Coordinator for Manatee County Schools and Joyce Kreger, Tech Prep/Career Pathways Coordinator for Sarasota County Schools work closely with SCF to inform students, parents, educators, and the community about the benefits of Tech Prep/Career Pathways. This is done in a variety of ways including classroom presentations, website information, marketing materials, and exhibits at school and community events.

A primary responsibility of the Consortium is to provide articulation opportunities for our CTE/ACT students. Our current articulation agreement makes available more than 490 credits to our Career Pathways students. Articulation agreements are also in place with St. Petersburg College, Johnson & Wales University, Art Institute of Tampa, and others.

Edward Gordon, author of *Winning the Global*

Note: To be consistent with the state and national trend to use “Career Pathways” instead of “Tech Prep,” Consortium leadership has made the decision to transition to that wording. During the 2009–2010 school year, a combination of the titles will be used. In 2010 “Career Pathways” will be used exclusively.

Talent Showdown, said in a July podcast that “we have a shortage of people in technical education coming into the workplace.” (www.ctesarasota.net/links.html) He explained that while the current generation of students is very comfortable using technology, they are frequently not interested in the design, manufacture, maintenance, repair, and management of those technologies. He also discussed the lack of available information for students and their parents about the types of careers needed by their communities, what the educational requirements are for the positions, and the future of those careers.

We are working diligently to provide that needed career information and to promote college and career preparedness to our students and their parents. We also promote the very real need for lifelong learning skills. For further information about the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium, visit our Web site at www.SuncoastTechPrep.com or contact:

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Industry Certifications: Teachers and Students Benefit

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.



Legislation has incorporated industrial certification into Perkins IV in an effort to ensure that students completing vocational programs are fully equipped for today’s workforce. Teachers are leading the way by getting industrial certification in addition to their teaching credential. This is setting the example for students and—in cases where instructor certification is required for program credibility—ensures that students will be eligible for certification. In addition, Perkins IV provides for weighted funding for students within a Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Academy when teachers have an industry credential.

The good news for Tech Prep/Career Pathways students is that industry certification will soon be the standard assessment tool to determine eligibility for articulated credit. That means when a high school student successfully completes a CTE program and becomes industry certified, they are eligible to receive college credit—saving time and money as they pursue an AS degree.

The objective for both Manatee and Sarasota Career & Technical Education departments is to lead the State of Florida in industry certification. We want our students to complete their career program with an industry-recognized credential that validates the education they receive in our classrooms. Instructor certification gives us an edge. It can mean more

funding for programs if students in a CAPE academy earn their certification. Getting the industry certification credential shows the community that we are doing a good job of offering students career education that is fresh and in demand.

This past summer, the No Teacher Left Behind program with participation from both Manatee and Sarasota County provided an opportunity for many teachers to get their industry certification credentials. Six teachers took the exam to become certified Microsoft Application Specialists and/or Microsoft Certified Trainers. Twelve of our teachers tested to get the Adobe Certified Associate certification in Photoshop. A certification in horticulture was the goal for four agriculture teachers. Other certifications that were part of this summer’s activities include Solidworks certification for two teachers, ProStart certification for four teachers, and one teacher achieved her third Adobe Certified Associate certification—this time in Flash.

By obtaining industry certifications, our teachers can better prepare our students. Our students must be equipped with solid skills if they are to earn a living wage and support themselves and their families as adults. *Contributed by Debbie Merrill*

Welcome from State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Career and Technical Education

On behalf of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) Career and Technical Education department, welcome back! We look forward to working with you and your students as we encourage them to advance their education. We will continue to partner with the Tech Prep Coordinators throughout the year for joint classroom presentations.

“In September 2008, the College’s Board of Trustees voted to pursue baccalaureate workforce degrees.”

MCC to SCF: A New Era for Our Region

On July 1, 2009, Manatee Community College officially became **State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota**. The impetus for this change was in September 2008 when the College’s Board of

Trustees voted to pursue baccalaureate workforce degrees. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Degree Program was approved by the State Department of Education (DOE) in March and will begin in January 2010, with the first two cohorts of 25 students each at SCF Bradenton and SCF Venice. With the start of the B.S.N. program, SCF became a state college.

More proposed workforce baccalaureate programs include energy technology, health services administration, public safety administration, technology management, exceptional student education, and early childhood education (birth to age four).

New CTE Programs at SCF

The SCF Career and Technical Education (CTE) department is excited to announce the reorganization of our programs in the areas of engineering and construction. The new Engineering Technology program has specializations in Auto-CAD or Electronics Technology. The Engineering Technology program prepares students for employment in the manufacturing and other engineering-based industries. Careers include production management, electronics technology, quality

control, statistics and quality management.

In addition to engineering we have added a Construction Management Technology program with specializations in Construction Management and Building Construction. This program prepares individuals for careers in residential and commercial construction management, including project management, superintendence, cost estimating, and skilled foreman. This program articulates with Everglades University Bachelor of Science degree program with a major in Construction Management.

SCF CTE Contacts

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Tech Prep/Career Pathways in Manatee County Schools

Welcome to the 2009–10 school year! Although you will continue to know us by Tech Prep in Manatee County, the national and state organization has changed its name to Career Pathways. Whatever we're called, we remain a nationwide program designed to give high school students a head start on a college degree or certificate. Career Pathways also ties directly into the Gold Seal Scholarship, which pays a substantial part of tuition to Florida state colleges and universities.

Coming this Year:

• Articulation Updates Cluster Days

It is time to update our articulation agreement with State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF). You may be called upon to serve on an "Articulation Day" team when we will gather with instructors and administrators from MTI and SCF to amend and create agreements for articulation between your programs and a postsecondary program. Please visit the website at www.suncoasttechprep.com to see our current agreement in its entirety, or contact me if you have

any questions. We want to make sure every program transitions smoothly into a postsecondary program, whether it be MTI, SCTI, SCF or one of the other community colleges or private postsecondary institutions in the state.

• Classroom Presentations

Tech Prep/Career Pathways would like to visit your Computing for College & Careers classes or your program classes. If we have enough notice, we would like to bring a State College of Florida representative or a community representative from your program's field—connecting your classroom to the world of work.

• Newsletters

Tech Prep distributes 3–4 newsletters per year. We would like to begin to focus more on students than on the program, so if you have a student who is in the last year of his/her program and is considering their next steps, let us know. We would love to interview them and include their story in the newsletter.

Manatee County Contact:

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Sarasota Tech Prep/Career Pathways Welcomes You Back

CTE teachers, guidance counselors, career advisors...you are all such an integral part of our Tech Prep/Career Pathways team. In your daily interface with students, you have the opportunity to let them know the importance of college and career preparedness, the benefits of finding their passion and staying on a career pathway, and the time and money savings they can receive by taking advantage of articulation opportunities.

Here are some specific ways we can work together in the 2009–2010 school year:

• **Participate in the update of our articulation agreement** with SCF. You may be called upon to serve on a collaborative team organized according to career clusters as we update and expand the articulation opportunities available to our students. These cluster meetings will be scheduled soon and will likely take place in October.

Sarasota County Contact:

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"Adults are always asking little kids what they want to be when they grow up because they're looking for ideas."

~Paula Poundstone

- **Provide syllabi upon request.** In programs where SCF does not offer an articulation opportunity, we look outside the Consortium for articulation opportunities. The postsecondary institutions considering our request normally want to see syllabi for each course in the program.

- **Invite us into your classroom.** Last year Nicole Stablein of SCF and I made presentations at each of the comprehensive high schools and SCTI. It is our goal to schedule two rounds of presentations this year. Fall presentations will include general information about Career Pathways, articulation and college preparedness; spring presentations will provide very specific information about the updated articulation agreement. Our presentations can be adapted to fit your timeframe.

- **Let us know about your students.** We want to feature in our newsletter CTE students who have followed a career pathway and are planning to take advantage of articulation opportunities in their field. We believe students and parents looking at our newsletter will want to hear about how tech prep/career pathways has benefited other students.

Thank you for all you do each and every day for our students. Please contact me anytime I can be of service to you in the area of career pathways. Have a great school year! *Joyce*

“Don’t wait for the recovery...BE the recovery!”

This headline appears in the 2009 National Career Pathways Network (NCPN) Conference flyer in a short piece written by NCPN Director David Bond. He continues with these insightful comments:

“Experts say that the economy is poised to recover in the coming months. However, we cannot wait until it does to take the next steps to do the right thing for students, schools, colleges, and businesses. Many people are coming to understand that implementing Career Pathways programs will bring about the win-win experiences for which everyone is hoping.” http://www.cord.org/uploadedfiles/NCPN_2009_Program_Preview.pdf

Well said. What can you do to help your students understand and participate in a skill-building Career Pathway that will help ensure their future?



SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS



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Suncoast Tech Prep—a college credit partnership between Manatee County Schools, Sarasota County Schools, and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota.



Your career pathway starts **here**.