

Tech Prep

EXPRESSIONS

Issue 3 | Winter | 2009

Tech Prep Career Pathways: Articulation that Works!



From top: Tech Prep student Robin Pratt, ECE instructor Nancy Acton, and MCC CTE Advisor Heather Mills.

Robin Pratt knew almost immediately upon entering Nancy Acton's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program that she had found her future. Ms. Acton's enthusiasm and love for teaching was contagious, and soon Robin was committed to completing the program and furthering her own education to be better equipped to work with children. A positive experience in her ECE internship at Puppy Patch Preschool helped to solidify that choice.

While in high school, Robin was active in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), and won first place in a district competition and a gold medal at state competition. Ms. Acton remembers Robin as "a delight" and is "so proud of Robin and what she is accomplishing." Robin also became certified in First Aid/CPR as part of her high school program, which proved to be a real advantage when applying for jobs. In her senior year, Ms. Action named Robin *Outstanding Early Education Student of the Year*.

Upon completion of the high school ECE program, Robin was presented with a Tech Prep Program Completer certificate. She took it to Heather Mills, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisor at Manatee Community College (MCC), and was thrilled that she was eligible to receive nine credit hours (three classes) before starting the MCC ECE program. That was a tremendous help to Robin, who is supporting herself by working full time at Snuggle Bugs Preschool and Daycare and going to school full time in the evenings. The Tech Prep/Career Pathways articulated credit saved tuition and book costs

for those three classes—PLUS she wasn't retaking curriculum that she had already successfully completed. She saved a lot of time by starting out almost a full semester ahead. MCC, on the other hand, got a first-rate committed student who—because she came with credit in hand—was more likely to complete the ECE program, which she will do this summer!

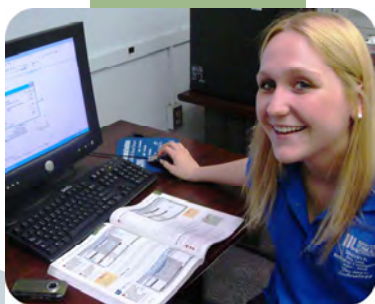
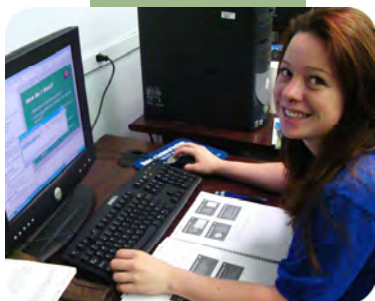
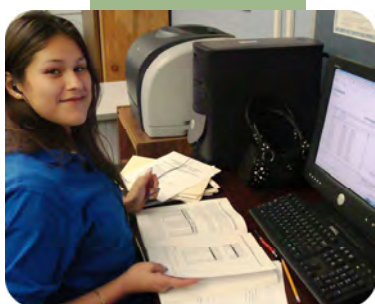
In her job at Snuggle Bugs, Robin cares for infants in the morning and toddlers up to four years-old in the afternoon. This affords her the best of both worlds, as mornings are mostly calm, which saves energy for her more lively afternoon group. Robin works hard to incorporate a lot of fun into her lesson plans as she knows that for many of these tiny students, she is their first introduction into formal education. She has a great impact on how they will feel about the learning process. Helping them to become lifelong learners is important to her. She leads her young charges into the world of discovering colors, letters, song, movement, and even some potty training, a very important life skill. Robin says it is rewarding when you can see pride and excitement in the eyes of a child who has learned something new.

Robin's future is bright. It includes teaching preschool... continuing her education...owning and running a preschool...continuing her education some more...and finally, her end goal is to teach Early Childhood Education to college students. No doubt, she can do it, and it all started on a simple pathway—a *TECH PREP/CAREER PATHWAY*.

...she was thrilled that she was eligible to receive nine credit hours before starting MCC...

Real Students, Real Success

MTI and SCTI Accounting Operations



From top: MTI accounting instructor Sheryl Griggy; students Elizabeth Reyes, Jamie Pelletier, Matt Haas, and Krista Cole.

Sheryl Griggy, accounting instructor at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI), beams when she talks about her students, the industry certifications they achieve, and the jobs the students are landing. When students leave her program for the workplace, they can expect to begin earning \$10 to \$12 dollars an hour. Many report that they are so knowledgeable that they quickly move up the ladder and are making a comfortable income to provide for their families.

Internships get results

Regina Stinson, Accounting Operations Instructor at Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI), is also enthusiastic about the program and students' successes. A former corporate tax director and business owner, she has taught at SCTI for seventeen years. Regina has enjoyed seeing students progress in their accounting knowledge, leadership skills, and self-confidence.

"I wish you could see their progression," Ms. Stinson said proudly. "They start with a dream, validate it, and know they can succeed."

Ms. Stinson recalls a former student who was stocking shelves in a grocery store. She called a brokerage firm and secured the student an internship. Within a year, the student obtained a broker's license. He then continued his education and is now with a major firm.

The success of this experience launched the internship portion of SCTI's program. Now, each adult student interns for at least 100 hours during the program. High school students intern during their senior year. Internships provide networking opportunities, job experience, a resume boost, and sometimes lead to permanent jobs.

Many career pathways

MTI/SCTI Accounting Operations program completers have many different career pathway options. They may work as bookkeepers, in banking, as accounting assistants, work in accounts payable, receivable, payroll, purchasing, or perhaps start a small business of their own. Other

students will go on to Manatee Community College's (MCC) Business Administration program with an accounting specialty and earn an AAS degree. Students articulating from the MTI/SCTI program to MCC can pass initial assessments and may be eligible to receive from 6 to 27 credit hours—possibly almost a full year of savings in tuition, books, and time.

Six student success stories

Elizabeth Reyes, Matt Haas, Jamie Pelletier, and Krista Cole are high school students attending MTI's Accounting Operations program during half of their in-school time. **Ryan Sikorski** and **Deborah Clemons** attend SCTI's Accounting Operations program. Some of these students brought their high school knowledge to the technical center for pre-earned credit, and all of them, when they heard about the Tech Prep/Career Pathways articulation agreement, are considering going on to MCC.

They know that the opportunity to start the AAS degree program that far ahead is well worth considering. Not only is the financial savings significant, completing a degree in less time means getting into the workforce sooner—prepared for success. That's articulation that works!

Elizabeth is a straight-A accounting student from Central High School. She has always been good in math and will finish MTI just in time for tax season. She plans to find a job as a tax assistant first, work through the summer full-time, then switch to part-time and attend MCC in the fall. Her lifelong learning goal is to become a certified public accountant.

Matt is in a senior at Bayshore High School and attends the MTI Accounting Operations program half of the week. Matt has a natural ability when it comes to numbers, and decided to take advantage of the free MTI education by attending as a high school student. He likes the fact that he was able to start MTI with credit for what he learned at Bayshore in Ms. Dominis' Accounting Applications class. Matt will definitely talk to the MCC CTE Advisor, Ms. Mills, about what

"...many different career pathway options..."

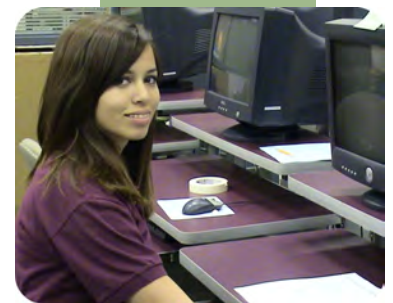
amount of credit he will be able to articulate toward his AAS degree.

Jamie drives from Lakewood Ranch High School every other day to be in Ms. Griggy's accounting program. Although she took accounting in high school, she decided to start at the beginning of the program to review what she had already learned. Jamie chose the accounting program because she enjoyed her experience in helping her dad with his books for the family-owned business. She was good at it but needed to expand her knowledge before taking it on as a real job. Jamie likes the idea of owning her own business and eventually would like to be a CPA.

Krista was successful in testing out of many hours of the MTI program because of her knowledge gained in high school accounting. She plans a career in the financial industry, but is unsure exactly what tract to take. She originally planned to go from high school directly into a four-year college, but the opportunity to articulate up to a year's worth of credit at MCC caused her to reconsider. When she completes the MTI Accounting Operations program this year, she will also head over to MCC with her certificate of completion and industry certifications to see exactly what she will gain from attending MCC and earning the AAS degree.

Ryan is an adult student at SCTI. Originally from Massachusetts, Ryan graduated from Venice High School. It took him awhile to decide on his next step. He was good with numbers and wanted to choose something based on math. Ryan is now enjoying the Accounting Operations program and will finish in May. He is planning an internship through SCTI, then plans to work in bookkeeping and later payroll as he continues his education. He was excited to learn about articulated credit at a presentation by Joyce Kreger, Tech Prep Coordinator—Sarasota, and Nicole Stablein, A.S. Recruiter—MCC. Ryan plans to speak with Ms. Mills, CTE Advisor at MCC, to discuss his next steps.

Deborah is a senior at Sarasota High School. She has already completed her classroom work and will intern in the spring. She enjoys the professional atmosphere of accounting and believes that this field will provide a good start into the business world. Deborah is hoping that her internship will help her secure a job that she will continue while she is in college. She plans to start in bookkeeping and progress as she gains experience. She spoke with Ms. Mills about opportunities at MCC after she learned about articulated credit at a presentation by Mrs. Kreger last fall at SCTI.



From top: SCTI accounting instructor Regina Stinson; students Ryan Sikorski and Deborah Clemons.

Manatee County Tech Prep Presentations

High School & Choices Opportunities

Many Manatee County high school career and technical education (CTE) teachers invited a representative to speak to students about Tech Prep/Career Pathways and how easy it is to get college credit for CTE programs. **Laura Roberts**, Career Advisor at Bayshore High School, and **Carol Lewis**, Tech Prep Coordinator, recently visited 22 classrooms. They spoke about career and postsecondary preparation and articulation agreements. Students responded with many questions and took fliers home for reference.

Carol enjoyed a day in the life of a teacher, spending the first half of **Deb Barry's** Agriscience Foundations classes talking about articulation and the second half watching Deb engage her students. The Braden River students were attentive and inquisitive, and Carol learned a lot about the insides of animals—pink tongues, soft bellies, and the like. Lifelong learning!

Tech Prep teamed up with Manatee Community College's (MCC) recruitment specialist **Nicole Stablien** to present opportunities for MTI accounting and administrative assistant students to articulate credit to MCC's Business AAS degree.

Please contact Carol at lewisc@manateeschools.net or by phone to schedule a visit to your CTE classroom. Your Tech Prep representative can be joined by a representative from MTI, MCC, and/or your career advisor.

Also, it is that time of year for eighth grade students! Tech Prep/Career Pathway presentations should be scheduled before students register for ninth grade classes. Tech Prep will be presented at **Haile Middle School**—January 14th and 22nd; **King Middle School**—January 21st; **Nolan Middle School**—January 28th; and **Harilee Middle School**—February 18th.

Sarasota County The Word is Out!

“We want all of our CTE students to know about the opportunities available to them...”

Word is spreading about articulation opportunities for Sarasota’s career and technical education (CTE) students. Articulation notebooks containing career pathways and articulation agreements have been distributed to guidance departments, career advisors and other key persons who have a hand in assisting our students as they make choices about college and career.

Meetings have taken place with career advisors, guidance departments and CTE department instructors to present the resources available about career pathways and articulated credit.

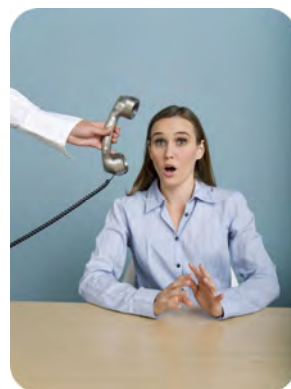
Several classroom presentations have been made at Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI). Plans are now in the works for classroom presentations in the high schools. We want all of our CTE students to know about the opportunities available to them by becoming successful Tech Prep completers.

How does one become a successful Tech Prep completer? This is accomplished by earning a “C” or higher in a

sequence of three or more courses in a single Tech Prep program. To be eligible for college credit, students must then enroll in the same field at a participating postsecondary institution, pass the college placement test at an acceptable level, and pass any other required assessments in order to demonstrate college preparedness.

If you are a CTE instructor and would like to schedule a presentation about Tech Prep for your students, please contact **Joyce** at joyce_kreger@sarasota.k12.fl.us. Presentations can be tailored to work within your time constraints and cover such topics as:

- The Importance of College/Career Planning
- What is Tech Prep?
- What is Articulation?
- What is My Next Step?



Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.

Demosthenes



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Suncoast Tech Prep—a college credit partnership between Manatee County Schools, Sarasota County Schools, and Manatee Community College.

