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# Tech Prep EXPRESSIONS



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## What is Tech Prep? An Overview

**T**ech Prep is a course of study that links high school and college career programs. This program gives students the opportunity to start a college technical major in high school that continues directly into postsecondary (after high school) education. It consists of a coordinated sequence of academic courses plus three to four electives offering career and technical knowledge and skills. When high school students complete (with a “C” or better) a series of structured, sequential career and technical courses and then enroll in one of the partnering colleges or technical institutes, they are awarded an average of nine college credits in that specific field. Upon high school graduation, students continue their studies at a community college, technical center, or registered apprenticeship program. At the completion of their program, students receive a certificate/license, associate degree, and/or bachelor’s degree, depending on the course of study.

The Tech Prep program is designed for students who want a higher-

paying, in-demand job and who plan to pursue educational opportunities after high school.

The Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium, which oversees the Tech Prep program, has developed articulation (credit-awarding) agreements between the Manatee and Sarasota school districts and:

- Manatee Technical Institute
- Manatee Community College
- Sarasota County Technical Institute
- Johnson & Wales University (Culinary Arts & Hospitality)
- University of South Florida
- St. Pete College
- Pinellas Technical Institute (PTEC)
- Hillsborough Community College
- Pasco-Hernando Community College
- Brewster, Irwin, & Learey Technical Centers (Hillsborough County)
- Others around the state

This means that these listed schools accept qualifying Tech Prep credits when a student enrolls in the same career program after high school.



## ARTICULATION

**Articulation is a planned process with courses containing the same content as an equivalent college course and for which a postsecondary institution has agreed to award college credit or technical center program hours. These credits or hours are applied toward the completion of a career program. Program articulation assures that students experience a seamless transition from high school to college without additional delays (i.e. duplication of coursework or loss of credit).**

# Reasons to tell your students about Tech Prep

Have you told your students how important it is to continue in a career pathway?

## ○ | Career goals

*Tech Prep offers real-world learning that directly applies to career goals.*

## ○ | Money for college

*Most Tech Prep programs meet the criteria for Gold Seal scholarship eligibility, giving an opportunity to qualify for Bright Futures and 75% off of Florida college tuition.*

## ○ | College credit

*Students completing (with a “C” or better) a series of structured, sequential career and technical courses who enroll in one of the partnering colleges or technical institutes are awarded an average of nine college credits in that specific field.*

## ○ | Better skills, better jobs

*Tech Prep jump-starts student’s skills so they can find better, higher paying jobs.*

## ○ | It’s the smart thing to do

*Whether its career goals, skills, credits, or money for college, Tech Prep is the smart thing to do to prepare for the future!*

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This nationally recognized program is challenging and rewarding, and gives students a sense of real-world learning that directly applies to their career goals. Students choosing a Tech Prep program realize that a high school diploma is no longer enough to find a high-paying job, and they want to get a jump start on the skills needed to succeed in the workplace. Most Tech Prep programs meet the criteria for Gold Seal Scholarship eligibility, giving students the opportunity to qualify for a Bright Future Scholarship and 75% off of Florida college tuition. To learn more about Tech Prep Career Pathways in Manatee County, call 727-2067, x2065, or email [lewisc@manateeschools.net](mailto:lewisc@manateeschools.net). For Sarasota information, 727-2067, x2065, or email [joyce\\_kreger@sarasota.k12.fl.us](mailto:joyce_kreger@sarasota.k12.fl.us).

## Help your students realize their potential

This is a very important time of the year for our students. In the next few weeks and months they will be choosing their classes for next year. Have you talked to your students about the next class in your career pathway? Are you actively recruiting your students into the next level of your program? It is VITAL that we make our students aware of the advantages of continuing in a career pathway, whether it’s the articulation to postsecondary education that Tech Prep provides, the opportunity to earn a Gold Seal Scholarship, or the practical job experience that many of our upper level courses offer. Our students must hear from us how important it is to continue in a career pathway.

This is also a great time of year to meet with seniors who may be feeling a little unmotivated because they are so close to graduation. We all know “senioritus” can set in. Encourage them to keep their GPA up and to take the SAT, ACT, or

CPT so that they can qualify for the Gold Seal Scholarship. It’s just not enough to take three classes in a program—the grades have to be there too.

If you have questions or would like a guest speaker regarding Tech Prep or Gold Seal, please contact your Tech Prep/Career Pathways Coordinator.



## Who do you know?

Business and community partners are crucial to the success of our students. Partners can be involved in several ways including advisory councils, mentoring, career shadowing, curriculum review, presentations, internships, externships, entrepreneurial programs, and equipment or financial sponsorships. If you know of an individual or business who might be interested in partnering with us, please let us know. Volunteers will only be used in the areas of their interest and expertise and will not be asked to attend unnecessary meetings. Opportunities are available with a variety of time commitments, so that even busy persons can be involved.

# The importance of articulation

Articulation benefits everyone involved. Students and their parents benefit by students being awarded college credit for advanced high school studies—thereby saving time and money. Educators at the secondary level benefit by having students who are motivated to excel in order to gain college credit. Postsecondary institutions benefit by receiving students who have already gained a foundation for the related postsecondary program being undertaken.

Students are awarded articulated credit by completing a series of three or more elective, technical classes in high school and meeting other criteria as stipulated in the articulation agreements between the school districts and postsecondary institutions.

Manatee Community College is hosting an “Articulation Day” at its East Campus on February 1, 2008. The meeting will include key team members from our Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium—Manatee Community College, Manatee County Schools and Sarasota County Schools. At this important meeting, articulation agreements will be reviewed, updated and expanded. We wish to thank instructors, curriculum staff and others who have agreed to participate in the articulation process and Manatee Community College for hosting this event.

We are also making progress with the development of articulation agreements between our school districts and other public and private postsecondary institutions. Stay tuned for updates!



## Florida Ready to Work Local Contacts

### Ready to Work contacts in Manatee County:

- Steve Harvey  
*Lakewood Ranch High*
- Maddy Ross  
*Bayshore High*
- Vicki Cunningham  
*Manatee High*
- Cindy Rees  
*Southeast High*
- Kelli Kennedy  
*Braden River High*
- Sally Rikard  
*Palmetto High*
- Martha Meyers  
*MTI*

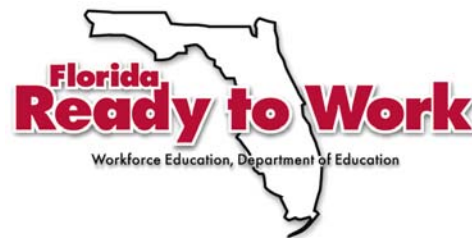
### Ready to Work contacts in Sarasota County:

- Steve Crane  
*Booker High*
- Nancy Rhoten  
*North Port High*
- Rodney Jones  
*Riverview High*
- Sue Decker  
*Sarasota High*
- Ellen Roupp  
*Venice High*
- Jack McDonald  
*SCTI*

## Florida Ready to Work: measuring work readiness

Florida Ready to Work is a new program designed to measure the job skills and work habits of potential employees.

The skills tested by Ready to Work are those required for more than 85 percent of all jobs today. Upon passing exams in three key skill areas: applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information, individuals will be awarded certificates signed by Governor Crist. The credential provides students with proof of their ability to succeed on the job and helps employers make better hiring decisions—



reducing turnover and training costs. Online tutorials and the assessments are free. An optional soft skills assessment, which measures workplace attitude, behavior, and character skills, is also available at no charge.

- Arts, Media Communications
- Agriculture
- Business, Marketing & Management
- Community & Consumer Service
- Construction
- Engineering & Science
- Manufacturing & Production
- Health

[WWW.SUNCOASTTECHPREP.COM](http://WWW.SUNCOASTTECHPREP.COM)

# Tech Prep Consortium: Meet the People

**C**arol Lewis is the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium Coordinator for Manatee County Schools. Formerly the CTE Advisory Council Coordinator, Carol's primary focus will be to work with the Sarasota Tech Prep Coordinator as they facilitate and review current articulation agreements with MCC and other postsecondary institutions. The team will also be busy researching opportunities to expand the credit students receive for their high school programs. Looking for new opportunities to form agreements and marketing the program to parents and students will also be of high priority. Carol will continue to facilitate the Advisory Council program. Please call her if you are in need of assistance in getting your council started or back on track this year.

**B**ethany Johnson joins the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium as the Administrative Secretary. Bethany brings strong secretarial, bookkeeping, and organizational skills that are vital to the success of the Tech Prep/Career Pathways department. Bethany previously worked as Assistant to the VPK Coordinator in Manatee County Schools. She also has several years experience as a pre-school teacher. Bethany will assist in drafting newsletters, agreement templates, scheduling dates, and aiding in the facilitation of the Advisory Council meetings.

**J**oyce Kreger recently joined the Suncoast Tech Prep Consortium as Tech Prep Coordinator for Sarasota County Schools. Joyce's experience includes marketing, outreach and development. She has been active in the community for many years. Her community involvement has included serving on the Committee of 100 Board in Sarasota County and the United Way Board in Manatee County. She is a graduate of the Leadership programs of both Sarasota and Manatee Counties. In addition to working on articulation with her partner Carol Lewis, Joyce is meeting with CTE Departments and Career Advisors in Sarasota to offer her support and to build upon the teamwork already in place. She is excited to be involved with efforts to make a difference in the lives of our students.



*From left: Joyce Kreger, Carol Lewis, and Bethany Johnson*



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[www.ManateeSchools.net](http://www.ManateeSchools.net)  
[www.Sarasota.k12.fl.us](http://www.Sarasota.k12.fl.us)

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

