



Withlacoochee Technical Institute

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

TODAY

Postsecondary Edition

Vol. 1 Issue 1

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GETTING FLORIDA TO WORK -

Welcome to Withlacoochee Technical Institute and our first issue of Technical Education TODAY.

It is the mission of WTI to provide the highest quality academic and technical education for current and emerging careers in a competitive workforce.

We all know that the workforce needs have changed over the years. WTI strives to keep abreast of the changes in order to prepare highly qualified candidates for the workplace. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of our efforts.

We appreciate the support the community at large has given WTI. We invite you to become more involved in WTI by joining one of our program Advisory Committees.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of Technical Education TODAY as much as we enjoyed preparing it for you.

Denise Willis, Director

On February 2, 2011 Governor Rick Scott proclaimed February as Career and Technical Education Month. Governor Scott recognized the value and importance Technical Education plays in preparing a strong workforce.

Getting Florida to Work - By the Numbers

Sometimes numbers tell a story. Our Technical Centers are getting Florida to work because:

- Of Florida's **15** fastest growing occupations projected through 2018, **10** require skills learned and/or certificates earned at a technical center.
- Out of the **top 100** fastest growing occupations. Over **30%** require a technical center education.
- The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates that **two out of three** jobs created through 2028 will require education or training beyond a high school diploma.
- There is an increasing gap between **jobs requiring a postsecondary education** and **workers with a postsecondary education**. Florida's technical centers bridge that gap.
- There are **46** technical/career centers in Florida. Each has tailored its programs based on the demand of local business and industry.
- **58 out of 67** school districts offer workforce education programs and enroll over **400,000** Floridians.
- **73%** of those who earn a technical center certificate have trained in programs for high-skill/high-wage or targeted occupations.

For More Information

on WTI's Programs

Visit our website:

www.wtionline.cc

or

Call 352-726-2430

ext. 244 or 246



Getting Florida to Work- continued from page 1

WTI is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE). Part of the accreditation process requires schools to submit an annual report showing the completion, placement and licensure rates of the school. The chart on the right shows that WTI exceeded the acceptable range in all these areas. To improve a students chances for employment, WTI provides students an opportunity to earn an industry certification. In the 2009 - 2010 school year, 226 students earned a record number, 285, industry certificates.

2008 – 2009			
Program Completion, Placement and Licensure Rates (Post-Secondary)			
WTI	Completion Rate	Placement Rate	Licensure Exam Pass Rate
Post-Secondary	79.85	87.34	94.06
Acceptable Range (Council on Occupational Education)	59.97	65.69	89.07

2009 – 2010		
Occupational Completion Points (OCP's) Awarded		
	OCP's Awarded	Program Completers
Post-Secondary	847	250

2009 – 2010		
Industrial Certifications Earned		
	Number of students	Industry Certifications Earned
Post-Secondary	226	285

WTI's Enrollment Numbers - 02/11/2011
Ever Thought About Who Goes to WTI? Here's the answer:

- Crystal River High - 6
- Lecanto High - 24
- Citrus High - 16
- CREST - 2
- Horizon - 12
- Teen Parent Program - 23
- PK - Babies - 9
- VPK - 9
- Transition Academy - 20
- South Sumter High - 3
- Wildwood High School - 1
- Post-Secondary Technical - 262
- Law Enforcement Academy - 40
- Corrections Academy - 20
- Applied Academics - 35
- GED/ABE Students - 155
- ESOL Students - 52
- Credit Recovery - 45
- Community Schools - 369

Automotive Service Technology Program Receives Donation

Through the generosity of Amprobe® Test Tools in Everett, Washington, we are please to announce that Withlacoochee Technical Institute has received five Amprobe DM7C Digital Multi-meters. WTI is the recipient of this donation because we are a NATEF accredited automotive program. "It is through such generous acts by our corporate partners that WTI is able to carry out its mission of helping provide the qualified, entry-level technicians of today and tomorrow." said Denise Willis, WTI's Director.

The Amporbe DM7C Digital Multimeter is designed specifically for automotive, boat and RV electrical testing.

It features six functions and 14 ranges, including special ranges to test batteries. It includes industry-standard test leads and a protective holster.

"Education has always been an important focus for Amprobe and we're honored to assist the efforts of NATEF with this donation," said Amporbe General Manager, Jasmine Khambatta. "We are pleased that Amprobe supports ASE certification and NATEF accreditation," said Denise Willis. "Our efforts to train and certify the best automotive repair and service professionals have become more meaningful with companies like Amprobe supporting our efforts," added Willis.

Getting Florida To Work - Under the Sun



What's new under the sun? One thing is the tremendous opportunities becoming available to get back to work in the increasingly popular field of solar energy. Dustin Brown was looking for a new career. Having held several jobs, Dustin was looking for a job that had a future. Having a concern for the future of our environment and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, Dustin became very interested in the field of renewable energy. So Dustin enrolled in WTI's Solar Thermal System Design, Installation and Maintenance program. Once he saw what solar could do, Dustin immersed himself in the program. He wanted to know everything there was to know about solar. After completing the various activities and projects associated with the course, Dustin experimented with ways to improve the output of the systems. He saw the solar program as a way to gain the skills he needed to become employable in an area he really enjoyed while making a contribution to preserve our planet by reducing the carbon footprint and our reliance on foreign oil.

Date to remember:

April 20, 2011 will be our next SAEC meeting @ 5:00 pm followed by our Advisory Committee Annual Dinner held in the Future's Café at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in becoming a member of a program advisory committee, Contact Ms. Tobin @ 352-726-2430 x 232.

Upon completion of the solar program, twenty seven year old Dustin took and passed the trade knowledge portion of the State of Florida Solar Contractor's exam. According to Dustin's instructor, very few people pass the four and three quarter (4 3/4) hour test on the first attempt. Dustin is now looking at his options regarding his own solar business.

WTI's Solar Thermal System Design, Installation and Maintenance program introduces the student to the design and installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems, electrical theory, code requirements, blueprint reading and safety. The course also covers the installation of solar water heating systems and pool heating systems. Contact student services at 352-726-2430 x 246 to learn how you can become part of this exciting career field.

Hey students and program completers!

Tell us what you are doing. Go to www.wtionline.cc Click on the Facebook link and tell us what you're doing, and where you are working.

We would love to hear from you.

Getting to Work - After Relocating to Florida



Andy Everett lost his job in North Carolina when the business where he worked at was sold. He moved to Citrus County where he applied at over 40 places without landing a job. "It was absolutely frustrating," he said. "The economy's rough right now and unless you're doing something about it you're not going to get too far." When Andy heard about the automotive technology courses at Withlacoochee Technical Institute, he decided to give it a try. He now trains full time and works part time at a tool rental shop. After graduation,

Everett looks forward to working as an auto service technician.

According to labor market statistics, **Automotive Services Technicians and Mechanics** is on the Targeted Occupations List for the region. Withlacoochee Technical Institute uses the Targeted Occupations List when deciding what programs to offer as a way to prepare the workforce with skills the marketplace needs. It's just another way the technical centers are **getting Florida back to work.**

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