

SARASOTA COUNTY SCHOOLS



Press release

Florida Ready to Work

Sarasota County School District
Career & Technical Education
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCTI Ramps Up Florida Ready to Work – Offers Program Free to Public

Sarasota, FL, Oct. 13, 2008. Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) announced today that it has fully launched the Florida Ready to Work career readiness credentialing program. As part of the launch and implementation, all instructional staff will become certified with a Florida Ready to Work Credential. SCTI Director Todd Bowden and Assistant Director Eddy Boynton have already completed the certification process and are official Credential holders.

SCTI was recently featured in a local Florida Ready to Work television commercial, along with Diane Andrews, Business Development Manager for the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota and Bob Beck, President of Staffing Professionals. The commercial airs on Comcast's SNN News 6. Sarasota School Superintendent Lori White, with the support of Chamber President Steve Queior, recently sent a memo promoting the Florida Ready to Work program to 400 Sarasota Chamber members.

As a registered Florida Ready to Work public Assessment Center, SCTI offers this free work readiness credential to both enrolled students and the general public. To earn the credential, students and non-student adults must pass three assessments in 1) applied math, 2) reading for information, and 3) locating information. The web-based assessments are provided free of charge and each takes about an hour to complete.

Once students and jobseekers successfully pass all three assessments, the Florida Department of Education mails them a Florida Ready to Work Credential. Jobseekers then show the Credential to potential employers, many of whom are familiar with the skills that the Credential represents. Over 250 Florida employers have partnered with Florida Ready to Work and recognize the Credential. For a list of employer partners, visit www.floridareadytowork.com and view the **Employer Partners** tab. In the greater Sarasota/Manatee area, over 100 area businesses have partnered with Florida Ready to Work.

Area students and jobseekers can find out more about the program by visiting the website or by enrolling in the program at the on-campus testing center at the SCTI main campus at 4748 Beneva Road in Sarasota. Businesses interested in partnering with the Florida Ready to Work program for employees or applicants can work with SCTI as their assessment provider. Employers interested in partnering with Florida Ready to Work can contact Program Coordinator Sharon Albrecht at (941) 914-0046.

Sarasota County Schools lead the region in implementing the Florida Ready to Work program, having provided Florida Ready to Work assessments and Credentials in each of its six high schools and SCTI. The District's Career & Technical Education department directed by Mellissa Morrow is spearheading the program for Sarasota.

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About Florida Ready to Work. Florida Ready to Work is a career readiness credential program funded by the Florida Legislature and administered by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education. Locally, the initiative is implemented by the Sarasota County School District. For more information, visit www.FloridaReadyToWork.com.