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Lee County students are getting ready to work

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The Lee County School District is one of the best in the state at getting its students ready for the workforce, according to the Florida Ready to Work program. More than 300 Lee County students earned the Florida Ready to Work credential in the 2007-08 school year.

The program is designed to help employers reduce the time required to hire employees, costs of training them, and turnover of their workforce, which results in increased productivity and profitability.

Job seekers who complete the program earn a Ready to Work credential, showing employers what they can do. Participation is free for students, adult job seekers and employers.

The top-performing district in Florida was Okaloosa County, with 715 students receiving the credential.

"With the rapidly shifting workforce demands of our state and nation, it is more important than ever that our schools stay focused on providing students the foundational skills to meet the workforce challenges and opportunities ahead," Education Commissioner Eric J. Smith said.

Other leading school districts in the Ready to Work program are:

- Flagler County (500 credentials earned)
- Brevard County (400)
- Citrus County (300)
- Volusia County (300)

In all, more than 7,300 credentials were earned statewide.

Starting with the 2008-09 school year, students who earn the credential will receive a special designation on their high school diplomas.

For more information visit www.floridareadytowork.com