

INDICATORS

Local schools creating paths to engineering

Boosting STEM education — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — is a priority for communities nationwide that want to attract companies with high-wage jobs.



SHARON HILLSTROM

Employers will discover that, in the Bradenton area, educators are creating a pathway to STEM-related careers that begin in elementary school. Engineering is an ideal case in point.

In the Manatee School District, exposing children to engineering starts at the elementary level with Inspiring Elementary Engineering (IE)2. Students learn about design and about solving real-world technical problems through group learning and competitions.

They study science, technology, engineering and math through machines, robotics, transportation, structures, manufacturing, power and energy, force/motion and inventions using a curriculum locally developed and based on state standards.

Middle school programs in Manatee Schools continue the emphasis with introductions to computer-controlled machining, which is done with industry-leading manufacturing software tools and machines. Students gain skills in robotics, pneumatics, electronics and materials and processes.

Middle school students also can pass the rigorous SolidWorks industry certification exam, showing they have mastered the software used in today's manufacturing industries.

At the high school level, nationally accredited Career Academies offer an astonishing array of skill-building programs, including engineering. Manatee County is home to the first nationally accredited academy in the United States and provided the basis for national standards that accredited

academies must meet.

In addition, Bradenton-area colleges, universities and major foundations have joined in a statewide and regional approach to expanding local options for pursuing an engineering degree.

The Bridge to Engineering program is a partnership between the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee and USF's College of Engineering in Tampa. Local students can take their first two years of general education at USFSM and transfer to USF in Tampa to finish their engineering degrees. The bridge program's initial focus on mechanical engineering is expected to expand into other engineering fields.

"By cultivating local talent," said Mike Bryant, president of Fawley Bryant Architecture, "the USFSM Bridge to Engineering program allows dynamic and well-prepared individuals to be more accessible to employers like Fawley Bryant Architecture."

Another intercollegiate collaboration offers an additional pathway to engineering degrees. State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota collaborated with the University of Florida College of Engineering to offer a pathway for local students to be admitted to UF's engineering program while starting coursework at SCF.

The Gator Engineering at SCF partnership is a component of UF's first outreach center, the Innovation Station, to be based locally. The Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation are supporting the project.

Employers want to place their companies in communities that can prepare a high-tech workforce and offer top-quality education to the children of their employees.

Manatee schools and the region's colleges are delivering on both counts.

— Sharon Hillstrom is president and chief executive officer of the Bradenton Area Economic Development Corp. She may be contacted at info@thinkbradentonarea.com or 803-9035.tag



Join us for:

Choosing a More Friendly Tax Domicile Aka: Benefits of Florida Domicile

This presentation is designed to counsel new Florida residents on the tax benefits of residing in Florida. It covers Florida intangible tax, estate taxes, elective share laws, and other Florida-related homestead information. This presentation also includes a checklist for establishing Florida domicile and discusses the comprehensive approach to guiding financial professionals and their clients through the process of establishing and maintaining Florida domicile.

Dates and times:

Tuesday, November 8 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29 at 10 a.m.

Location:

RBC Wealth Management

1819 Main Street, Suite 1100
Sarasota, FL 34236

RSVP

Nicole M. Muir,

Branch Service Manager –
Senior Client Associate
(941) 316-4816 or
nicole.muir@rbc.com

Hosted by:

David F. Muir III,
Senior Vice President –
Financial Advisor

John D. Letourneau,

Vice President –
Branch Director,
Financial Advisor

Guest speaker:

Joleen Searles, J.D., LL.M.
Estate Planning Attorney –
Managing Partner at the
Andersen Firm



**Wealth
Management**

Securities offered through RBC Wealth Management. RBC Wealth Management is not affiliated with the firm mentioned above. RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC. © 2016 All rights reserved.

16-SS-054 (10/16)

