



FMTC

FORT MYERS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Upcoming Events

FMTC Informational Meetings

Every Tuesday at
9:30 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.
Thursday at 1 P.M.

08/23/16

Evening Programs Start

08/31/16

Career Decisions Workshop

09/01/16

ParaPro Testing

09/05/16

Labor Day (school closed)

09/16/16

Constitution Day
Celebration

Voter Registration

09/21/16

School Advisory Council
7:30 a.m.

10/03/16

Rosh Hashanah
(no school)

10/06/16

ParaPro Testing

10/07/16

Annual Advisory Breakfast
7:00 a.m.

10/14/16

Student Appreciation Day

Blood Drive

10/17/16

Teacher Professional Day
(no school)

10/25/16

Practical Nursing (part-time)
Graduation

Fort Myers Technical College

3800 Michigan Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 334-4544

Fax: (239) 332-4839

www.FortMyersTech.edu

Soaring Scene is a free
quarterly newsletter of FMTC

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FMTC Graduate Wins National Award

by Debbie
Krouse



Arthur Celestin enrolled in an evening program at Fort Myers Technical College in 1994 shortly after moving to Fort Myers from Haiti. He then enrolled full-time in the Computer Electronics Technology program and later the Business Software Applications program while working full-time driving a school bus for The School District of Lee County. He excelled in both programs. Mr. Celestin worked 7 days a week for the 3 years and 10 months he attended the school. He wanted to make a good life for his family in the United States and did what he needed to do to succeed.

Upon graduation from FMTC, he was hired as a Computer Network Specialist by The School District of Lee County and taught ESOL and computer classes for Adult & Career Education in the evenings. He loved teaching and wanted to make that his full-time career. He continued his education and now holds a master's degree in education. Mr. Celestin accepted a full-time position teaching Computer Maintenance Technology & IT Certification at Southwest High School in

San Antonio, Texas. He expanded the program dramatically; the program now offers rigorous academic and technical courses with pathways to postsecondary education and the workforce. All of his students are immersed in hands-on activities that allow them to gain knowledge and experience necessary for their future careers. Students can earn up to 9 industry-recognized certifications, such as CompTIA A+, Comp TIA Security +, and Cisco networking. In 2014-15, 91% of his students were minorities and 72% low income. Seventy-eight percent of these students earned industry credentials and 100% graduated from high school.

Mr. Celestin was chosen as a 2016 Excellence in Action winner in Information Technology by Advance CTE for his innovative and impactful program. Advance CTE is the longest-standing national non-profit that represents state directors and state leaders responsible for secondary, postsecondary, and adult Career Technical



Arthur Celestin, far left, receives 2016 Excellence in Action Award in Washington, D.C. Also pictured: Diane Salazar, Texas CTE Director and Paul Black, Southwest High School principal.

Education across all 50 states and U.S. territories. "This amazing award highly demonstrates how one teacher's vision has empowered and changed the lives of many high school students and their families through a wonderful CTE IT program. I am so grateful for the 2016 Excellence in Action Award for being an accurate reflection of the success of the IT Certification & Cyber Security program that I've built and its impact on the school, the City of San Antonio, Bexar County and surrounding areas." said Mr. Celestin.

Welcome to FMTC's



by Michele Witlin

Now that you're a new student to Fort Myers Technical College, you have many great new resources available to you to help you become successful academically and also in your new emerging career. One resource that every student should know about is FMTC's career website, www.CollegeCentral.com/FortMyersTech. This website allows current students and alumni to register for free, build their profile, post their resume, create an electronic portfolio, search for jobs and even apply to those jobs directly through this site. This website is mobile device enabled, therefore you can access it from anywhere, including your desktop, laptop, smart phone, tablet, etc.

In order to start benefiting from this resource, all you need is your F number (student identification number) in order to register. What's more is that students will also have access to announcements of events that are happening on our campus and around our community, such as career fairs, seminars, and workshops. Students can also utilize the career advice documents, videos, and audio podcasts that are posted to this website to help them with resume development, cover letters, interview do's and don'ts, career fair etiquette, dressing for success, elevator speeches, and a

NOT TOO LATE TO START YOUR 2016-2017 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

by Sandy Shimp

Applying for Financial Aid is as easy as completing the application at www.FAFSA.ed.gov and adding the school code for Fort Myers Technical College – 007558. Once you have successfully submitted your application, schedule a time to stop by the Financial Aid office and we can complete the evaluation. Even if you already paid for your program – any eligible funding will be provided directly to you.

For the students planning ahead, there are significant changes coming for the 2017-2018 academic year. You will be able to start the application process earlier and you will be using the 2015 tax year information again. Watch the email you used on the FAFSA application for updates regarding the upcoming changes.

collection of other job-related advice pieces.

Make the most with your time here at FMTC. Utilize all the resources that your teachers, Student Services, and the Career Development Center has to offer. Fort Myers Technical College is here to help you achieve your career goals, therefore, take the first step and get registered for www.CollegeCentral.com/FortMyersTech. If you need help registering, please come by the Career Development Center and see Michele Witlin, Career Specialist, in order to get setup on the site. Best of luck this school year and welcome to Fort Myers Technical College.



Brian Mangan

As the new Director of Fort Myers Technical College, it is my pleasure to welcome our new students and staff members, and to welcome back our returning students and staff!

Fort Myers Technical College (FMTC) is off to a great start for the 2016 – 2017 year, and we're glad you're here. As you begin, or resume, your post-secondary studies it may occur with one of our new program instructors and staff members:

- **Bridget Adcock** – Application Support Specialist
- **Michael Adcock** – Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
- **Maria Baldini-Chavez** – Education Paraprofessional
- **William Bluhm** – Welding Technology
- **Dan Bristol** – Automotive Service Technology
- **Michael Mayes** – Plumbing Technology
- **Elva Reid** – Practical Nursing
- **Chris Reilly** – Technical Support Specialist
- **Bill Sandifer** – Medical Administrative Specialist, Administrative Office Specialist
- **James Sauter** – Drafting
- **Debbie Shadduck** – Student Services Clerk Typist

To round out the recent staff additions I am excited to be the new director. During the last school year I served as the Director of Cape Coral Technical College. From 2012 to 2015 I served as the Principal of East Lee County High School for three years. East is an academy high school where Career and Technical Education was a focal point. From 2009 to 2012 I served as the Principal of Mariner High School where we took the opportunity of a renovation and initiated several Career and Technical Programs to improve the opportunities for the students. From 2006 to 2009 I served as the Principal of Caloosa Middle School. My career in education was placed on hold from 2004 to 2006 when I was recalled to active duty with the United States Army and I served in the Central Asian Region, Kuwait and at a several Army Installations in the United States. My career in education began in 1993 and I taught at Lehigh Acres Middle School, North Fort Myers High School. I then moved into administration where I served as an Assistant Principal at Fort Myers High School and Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School. I am excited to be at Fort Myers Technical College and look forward to working with the staff and ensuring our students have every opportunity to succeed here so that they may realize their career goals.

There is a major undertaking that we are just starting—Accreditation by the Council on Occupational Education! Our college strives to maintain the

highest standards in Career and Technical Education and the Council on Occupational Education (COE) is the internationally recognized leader in accrediting postsecondary colleges and institutions. For over 35 years FMTC has been recognized and accredited by COE. The process is thorough and demanding, and it is incumbent upon all of us to once again to meet the high standards. The process will start in August of 2016 and, we recently have been informed, culminate with a visit by a COE accrediting team during October 2-5, 2017. The yearlong self-study will allow us to look at every aspect of our college, its educational processes and supporting structures. It will allow us to continuously improve FMTC so that we can always **carry out our mission: The mission of Fort Myers Technical College is to provide high quality career and technical training, in order to prepare students for current and emerging industries, delivered by a professional and caring staff in a positive learning environment.**

Achieve our vision: All students enrolled in vocational/technical programs will obtain workforce credentials through certificate programs and, where applicable, industry certification and/or licensure.

And live our philosophy: Education is a continuing process and Fort Myers Technical College assumes the responsibility for offering all of its citizens an opportunity to participate in educational experiences commensurate with their interests and abilities. In our rapidly changing technological environment, most individuals will choose a career direction more than once in a lifetime. No longer is a general high school diploma to be considered adequate preparation for employment, nor should the adults in the world of work assume they have no further need for continuing education and training. If then, in our increasingly complex society, the need for continuing education is preparation for life, training for technical/career competence must be included in the educational process.

Students' success can almost be guaranteed when they accept responsibility for their own learning, when instruction is relevant, challenging, and interesting, and when students can see regular evidence of their progress.

The technical/career classroom simulates the world of work by presenting programs which enable individuals to develop occupational skills, positive attitudes, and effective work habits which contribute to successful employment.

It is realistic to assume that technical/career education is a choice based on individual interests and gives meaning through application to the basics in the educational experience. This will enhance student retention through interest in meaningful learning. All persons have individual worth and a right to reach their fullest potential.

Please take a few moments to look over this edition of the *Soaring Scene*. There are many great things going on here at our school, and we want you to know about them.

Have a great year!



Practical Nursing Graduates—June 2016

Pictured from left to right: Alexandra Bobrova, Loraine Goodwin, Ty'Isha Henry, Catalina Mendoza, and Sheena Ruffin

Carol L. Heier Scholarship Fund

by Debbie Krouse

Carol L. Heier, graduated from the Practical Nursing program in 2002 at the age of 58, and began a new career as an LPN after working many years as a real estate broker/developer and computer manager. Ms. Heier passed away on January 11, 2016; her legacy includes a scholarship to benefit an LPN or CNA student at Fort Myers Technical College. Applicants must be 50 years of age or older and must be a registered student at FMTC in a CNA or LPN program. The scholarship recipient will receive \$10,000 for school tuition and expenses. Details are available on the FMTC Student SharePoint site or in Health Sciences. The deadline to apply is October 1, 2016.

Feb. 12, 2016 - Congratulations to Sheena Ruffin, Kristina Preshard, and Teresa Sankey who received \$500 scholarships from the General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres, Inc. The club has

to Lehigh Acres residents, according to Diane Lashua, chairman of the GWC Scholarship Committee.

Ms. Ruffin, a Practical Nursing student, is the mother of 3 young children.

Ms. Preshard, also a Practical Nursing student, has 2 boys and also works part-time.

Both Ms. Ruffin and Ms. Preshard plan on continuing their education

after graduation from FMTC. Ms. Sankey, a Web Application & Development student, is the mother of 2 children; she plans to start an affordable online advertising business targeting small business owners. Please contact the Financial Aid office to learn more about scholarship opportunities at FMTC.



Kristina Preshard

Lehigh Scholarship

by Debbie Krouse

presented scholarships for more than 30 years to the tune of more than \$86,000

SAFETY SECURITY

by Steve Dougherty

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and to welcome back those who are returning to FMTC.

As we start a new school year, I think it's important to highlight some of our security and safety concerns.

- ✓ **Campus access:** During most of the school day, Gate #3 is the single point of entry to FMTC. The gate house is manned daily by a security specialist whose duties include stopping and identifying all unregistered vehicles. Each student who drives to school will be issued a parking hanger. That hanger **must** be displayed with the number facing out while the vehicle is on campus.
- ✓ **Parking lots and traffic ways:** The Student Handbook sets the campus speed limit at 5 mph. Please remember that we are a busy campus with students, visitors and staff coming and going all day long. When driving on campus, be alert for pedestrians, other traffic and maintenance vehicles.
- ✓ **Campus visitors:** All visitors to campus, including former students and family or friends of current students must report to "C" building and obtain a visitor pass. As a general rule, social visits are discouraged.
- ✓ **Student IDs:** For a number of obvious reasons, it is incredibly important that instructors, staff and students can be reasonably certain that the only people on our campus actually belong here. Consequently, every student is issued a photo ID which must be worn photo facing out on the outermost garment and above the waist. If a student forgets his/her ID, a temporary ID must be obtained at the front desk in "C" building. Lost IDs are replaced at nominal fee of \$5.00 and must be applied for in "C" building.
- ✓ **See something/say something:** Safety and security is everyone's responsibility. If you see something that appears out of place or someone who doesn't appear to belong here or anything of a suspicious nature, don't hesitate to notify your instructor, one of the security officers or me.

Once again, welcome back. I hope that we all can enjoy a safe and productive school year.

Are You Motivated Enough to Be in National Technical Honor Society? by Gail Rieckhoff

National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) will hold its first new members drive of the year beginning October 18th through October 25th. To be a member of NTHS, students must have an A average as well as an excellent attendance record, attended FMTC for one quarter, met TABE requirements, filled out a membership application to be returned to advisor Gail Rieckhoff (Learning Lab), and received a teacher recommendation letter. Potential members should also have completed 6 documented hours of community service within the past year; veterans are exempt from this requirement because of their service to our country.

Students who meet the above requirements are encouraged to join. Thousands of dollars of scholarship monies are available to members to further their education; FMTC has produced several scholarship winners over the past few years. The National Technical Honor Society office will also write letters of recommendation for members' résumés and portfolios.

NTHS is an active club on campus. Last year they held their annual poinsettia fundraiser before the winter holidays, gathered holiday cards for the troops, worked during Student Appreciation Days and graduation, and ran a spaghetti fundraiser luncheon to raise money for our SkillsUSA team.

Success Tips for Adult Students



by Dianne Fabii

Remember when you were a child getting ready for a new school year? It was fun to get a shiny new lunch box or a new pair of shoes or a set of crayons to prepare for the new school year. Remember the excitement you felt about meeting new friends, as well as the apprehension about what to expect from teachers as well as yourself? Those memories may lay the groundwork for what you feel today as you are returning to school. Whether you are a dual-enrolled high school student, a recent high school graduate, or an adult seeking a new career path, that excitement and apprehension may not feel much different for you than it did when you were a child.

However, *there are many supports in place for you here at FMTC* to help ensure your success. Teachers are available to you at all times to answer questions about your schoolwork and career path. Counselors in the Student Services department can advise you about programs as well as provide support and guidance when a professional or personal problem arises. Our Career Specialist can provide job search and employment preparation assistance. Our goal here is to help you succeed and achieve, and to make sure that your experience at FMTC is positive and rewarding in every way.

One of the best ways to set yourself up for success is to be prepared and to have a plan. The following tips will help you with navigating the changes in your life as you proceed toward attainment of your goal of completing a career program at FMTC:

Embrace the change: Any significant change in your routine, such as starting a new program, requires that you shift your priorities. We all have the same 24 hours to spend each day, but adding classes and studying to your life might mean that you have to say "no" or "not now" to some other things. While you are in school, it's important to recognize that you likely will have to make some short-term tradeoffs with your time.

Ask for help: You don't have to try to be a superhero and do everything on your own, most especially if you find yourself struggling. Ask for your family's assistance with household duties. Reach out to instructors if you don't understand something. Seek out resources to help you improve or fill in gaps of knowledge.

Survive and thrive: During peak work periods and exam times, you may feel like you are in survival mode, trying to prepare and get things done. Stress may escalate and affect your well-being. Non-essential tasks should be put aside during this time, so you can concentrate fully on the work at hand and take care of yourself to avoid stress overload.

Compromise: Sometimes there simply will not be enough time to get everything done the way you want. When those times arise, trade in excellence for efficiency. Sometimes good enough has to be good enough. Assess your habits, schedule, and commitments to adjust where needed so that you can strive for doing your best. If you develop good time management habits and study skills early on, you will be on the way to completing your program successfully.

Celebrate: Celebrate milestones when you achieve them! Acknowledge a job well done and be proud of your hard work, which mark the progression toward completion of your program.

Keep in mind that you made a great decision to acquire new knowledge and enhance your employability through an education at FMTC. There are many new possibilities and opportunities that await you. Go for it, and keep in mind that we're always here to help you reach your goal!

DAY PROGRAMS

- Administrative Office Specialist
- Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology
- Applied Cybersecurity **NEW**
- Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing
- Automotive Service Technology (A.S.E.-Based Technician)
- Carpentry
- Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts
- Correctional Officer
- Drafting
- Cosmetology
- Crossover Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Officer
- Crossover Law Enforcement Officer to Correctional Officer
- Early Childhood Education
- Electricity
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician-ATD **NEW**
- Fire Fighter
- Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technician-Combined **NEW**
- Florida Law Enforcement Officer
- IV Therapy
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair
- Marine Service Technologies
- Mechatronics Technology **NEW**
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Coder/ Biller (online)
- .NET Application Development & Programming
- Nursing Assistant-Articulated
- Nursing Assistant-Long-term Care
- Plumbing Technology
- Technology Support Services **NEW**
- Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection and Repair
- Web Application Development & Programming
- Welding Technology

For registration information call (239) 334-4544

The School District of Lee County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy, or genetic information in its educational programs, services or activities, or in its hiring or employment practices. The district also provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other patriotic youth groups, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to: Sandy Shimp, Equity Coordinator, Fort Myers Technical College, 3800 Michigan Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33916, (Voice/TDD): (239) 334-4544, SandraLSH@leeschools.net.

Lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation. The district may assess each student's ability to benefit from specific programs through placement tests and counseling, and, if necessary, will provide services or referrals to better prepare students for successful participation.

Red Shouldered Hawk Rescued

By June Halladay

On March 30th, Alfredo Gonzalez, one of our sites workers, came into the main office with a beautiful baby bird cradled in his hands.

Now, when you hear baby bird, you normally think of a tiny little chick the size of a tennis ball or smaller. This guy, (or girl... according to the volunteer from C.R.O.W., Red Shouldered Hawks are impossible to tell apart), was as big as a football...but much prettier. During the night, a bad storm had blown the nest out of the tree and the other 2 babies were killed in the fall.

CROW was called. They referred the fledgling to the Calusa Nature Center where it was checked out. CROW volunteer Doug Albert brought the bird back to FMTC's campus. He asked for volunteers: one to take pictures and one to hold the long handled fishing net, which was to keep Mama Hawk from swooping down and clunking him in the head!! (Apparently Red Shouldered Hawk mothers are VERY protective of their nests!) Kristen Ralston manned the net, June Halladay grabbed the camera, and both watched as he started to climb the ladder up the pine tree from which the nest had fallen.

In just a short time, he attached a milk crate to

the tree, gathered up the nesting materials from the destroyed nest and placed them in the crate. Ms. Ralston watched carefully with her net held high above her head because Mama was watching intently from a nearby tree as the baby was carried into the new nest box.

Within a few hours, Mama Hawk was back on duty feeding and guarding her little one its new

Baby Red Shouldered Hawk found on campus after storm



Creating a new nest box



Mother feeding baby before leaving the nest

nest. With her diligent care, our little FMTC baby stuck around, growing every day until in mid-April he/she was spotted on top of a light pole being pestered by a mockingbird. Keep an eye out to see if you can catch a glimpse of FMTC's smallest member (or his mother) on the grounds!

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VISION: All students enrolled in vocational/technical programs will obtain workforce credentials through certificate programs and, where applicable, industry certification and/or licensure.

FMTC Students Compete at National Competition

by Debbie Krouse

FMTC was represented by 7 students at the SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Competition this summer in Louisville, Kentucky. These students had to win 1st place in both the regional and state competitions in order to advance to the national competition. This is a multimillion dollar event that occupies a space equivalent to 16 football fields. Over 6,000 students competed in 100 different trade, technical, and leadership fields.

SkillsUSA is the national organization for students in trade, industrial, technical and health occupations education. It helps students follow their passions to their ultimate careers. As a nationwide partnership of students, instructors and industry working together, SkillsUSA works to ensure America has a skilled workforce. It helps every student excel in his or her career and technical education (CTE) student organization serves more than 300,000 high school, college and postsecondary students—and their instructors—in technical, skilled, and



(Pictured from left to right) Back row: Nyree Adams, SkillsUSA State President; Walter Vasquez; Justin Pencil; Jacquelyn Bagwell; Christian Wood. Front row: Noe Gamez Nino and Ivan Ruiz

service occupation instructional programs. CTE is learning that works for America.

Talk to your instructor about how you can become involved in SkillsUSA this year.