

PRESS RELEASE

Lee County Public Schools

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SUBJECT: SCHOOLS CHANGES NAME – STILL PROVIDES OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The two leading providers of occupational career training in Lee County have officially adopted new names, and are now known as **Fort Myers Technical College** and **Cape Coral Technical College**. The schools have been training students to enter the southwest Florida workforce for over 48 years and are governed by the School District of Lee County.

The schools were previously known as Lee County High Tech Centers (North and Central), Cape Coral Institute of Technology, and Fort Myers Institute of Technology.

The renaming name is focused on increasing student access, interest, and enrollment in the postsecondary instructional programs offered at these schools. Changing the names to “Technical College” will positively impact students, employers, and the community at-large.

“The name “Technical College” more clearly describes the adult technical education programs offered by the district as postsecondary, college-level curriculums,” said Bill McCormick, Senior Director for the two schools. “Our hope is that this new name better communicates to the community what our schools are all about. Offering high school graduates and their parents a public, technical college option will encourage more of our residents to select an affordable, debt-free, high -quality postsecondary pathway,” he said.

Students at these schools already earn college credit for the coursework they complete upon transfer to public state and community colleges. The goal is to increase this awareness and ease the transition into Associate of Science degree programs at state colleges such as Florida Southwestern State College.

The renaming follows a trend taking place throughout the nation, as well as Florida. All of the States in the southern region of the United States have already adopted the “Technical College” name for their postsecondary technical schools. In Florida, there are 47 school district operated postsecondary technical centers. Within the past 9 months, 27 of them have been renamed as Technical Colleges.

The Technical Colleges offer over 30 full-time career preparatory programs including Practical Nursing, Carpentry, Applied Cybersecurity, Major Appliance and Refrigeration Repair, Automotive Service Technology, Cosmetology, and many more. Part-time evening programs are also offered. Fort Myers Technical College also operates an extension campus in Fort

Myers, which houses the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy's Law Enforcement Officer, Corrections Officer and Fire Fighter programs.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall session which begins August 24, 2015. Students should register as soon as possible as programs fill up quickly. For more information, please stop by the schools at **3800 Michigan Avenue in Fort Myers, or 360 Santa Barbara Blvd. N. in Cape Coral.** You may also visit the schools online at www.fortmyerstech.edu or www.capecoraltech.edu.

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