

# FMTC

## FORT MYERS TECHNICAL COLLEGE

### Upcoming Events

- 09/03/15  
ParaPro Testing
- 09/07/15  
Labor Day (school closed)
- 09/14/15  
Rosh Hashanah (no school)
- 09/16/15  
Practical Nursing (part-time) Graduation
- 09/21/15  
IV Therapy Begins
- 10/05/15  
Practical Nursing (part-time) Begins
- 10/08/15  
ParaPro Test
- 10/23/15  
Student Appreciation Day  
End of 1st Quarter
- 10/26/15  
Teacher In-Service Day (no school)
- 10/27/15  
Teacher Professional Duty Day (no school)
- 10/28/15  
Patient Care Assistant and Phlebotomy Begin

## Carpentry Student Wins at National Competition

June 25, 2015 – SkillsUSA is the showcase for the best career and technical students in the nation. And one of those outstanding students is from FMTC! Alexander Hernandez, Carpentry student, won gold medals at the regional and state competitions which gave him the opportunity to compete at the national competition with the best of the best.



Alexander Hernandez

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 service occupation instructional programs. CTE is learning that works for America. SkillsUSA has the active support of more than 600 corporations, trade associations, business and labor unions at the national level. Over 11.9 million people have been annual members of SkillsUSA since its founding as The Vocational Industrial Clubs of America in 1965. SkillsUSA programs teach leadership, citizenship and character development to complement technical skill training. The organization emphasizes respect for the dignity of work, ethics, workmanship, scholarship and safety.

The SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills

Conference held in Louisville, Kentucky, was a multimillion dollar event that occupied a space equivalent to 16 football fields. Over 6,000 students competed in 100 different trade, technical, and leadership fields. Nearly 1,500 judges and contest organizers from labor and management made the national event possible. The SkillsUSA Championships recognize the achievements of career and technical education students and encourage them to strive for excellence and pride in their chosen occupations.

Working against the clock and each other, the participants proved their expertise in job skills for occupations such as electronics, technical drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. There were also competitions in leadership skills such as extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedures.

The contests are planned by technical committees made up of representatives of labor and management and are designed to test the skills needed for a successful entry level performance in given occupational fields. Safety practices and procedures—an area of great concern to labor and management alike—are judged and graded and constitute a portion of a contestant's score.

Carpentry contestants had to frame walls using wood and/or steel studs; cut and install rafters, gable end overhang, fascia board and soffit; install sheathing and/or exterior siding and exterior trim. Demonstration of their construction knowledge was required. Contestants were judged on accuracy; ability to read and interpret blueprints; workmanship; safety; and the proper use of tools, equipment, and materials.

Congratulations to Mr. Hernandez who won a bronze medal in Carpentry at this national competition! Talk to your teacher about how you can become involved in SkillsUSA this year.



## A <sup>great</sup> CAREER IN A YEAR

Some people think a traditional 4-year college or university is the only option if you want a great career. But many of FMTC's graduates complete a 1-year training program in high-demand, high-wage industries and are immediately hired at fantastic salaries.

**Oran Renfro** completed the Building Construction Technologies program at FMTC in June 2015 and before he graduated was offered a full-time position with a starting salary of \$50,000! Many college graduates work years before earning a comparable salary. Plus many end up paying off student loans for years. Students completing an FMTC program leave debt-free.

Mr. Renfro worked in the construction industry after graduating from Fort Myers High School in 2006. In 2008, he joined the United States Marine Corps and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Mr. Renfro served 2 tours of duty in Afghanistan as an engineer, building barracks from the ground up. After serving 4 years in the Marines, he returned to Fort Myers and worked for a company installing windows. Mr. Renfro had

always planned on becoming a construction superintendent but knew he needed to learn all aspects of building construction in order to work with contractors from all the building trades. Taking advantage of the Post 911 GI Bill, he enrolled in the Building Construction Technologies program at FMTC. In the program, students spent time learning the basics in Plumbing Technology, Electricity, Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration, & Heating Technology, and Carpentry.

Mr. Renfro worked full-time at Marine Concepts while attending FMTC full-time. He still found time to compete in the regional and state SkillsUSA competitions where he won 1st place in the Chapter Display competition. In addition to constructing the platform and stand for the display, he also had to prepare and deliver a 5 minute speech.

In February 2015, Mr. Renfro was hired part-time at Feil, Inc., a hardwood flooring and stair construction company. The owner was immediately impressed with his skills and wanted to make sure he didn't lose a valuable employee to a competitor, so he made Mr. Renfro an offer he couldn't pass up.



**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  
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William McCormick

*Message from the Director*

# A Great Start

Welcome back to school students and staff members! For the first time ever, our school opens its doors to a new school year with a new name and designation as a technical college. More on that later.

No matter our name, Fort Myers Technical College (FMTC) is off to a great start, and we're glad you're here. As you may have noticed, our enrollment continues to rise as more and more students seek to take advantage of the many great occupational training programs our school offers. Congratulations and thank you for continuing to further your education and training here at FMTC.

I wrote here in this space last year about a study that ranked our school's graduates as having the highest first-year earnings amongst all technical certificate graduates in the state of Florida, as well as the highest percentage of graduates employed in their field of study. Indeed, our graduates out-earned most associate of arts degree graduates by almost \$10,000. Although proud of this recognition, the real take-away is that this is clear evidence of a trend across the county: the amazing value in pursuing a technical education. You are a part of this emerging trend.

Now we take the next step. A few months ago, we changed our name to better reflect the true technical postsecondary nature of our institution. We believe that this rebranding will positively impact our students, our industry-partners, and the community at large. Most of our students already earn articulated college credit for the course work they complete upon transfer to a public state or community college. We think this name change will help convince more students to pursue the technical skills-based education that will allow them to achieve their career goals while making the Southwest Florida more attractive to new businesses seeking to relocate. I hope you agree!

Finally, while you are here at FMTC, I encourage you to get involved in any number of student-based organizations that are available. SkillsUSA and the Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) are just two of the career and technical student-based organizations which can help you become more competitive in the job market after you finish your training. Our National Technical Honor Society chapter also provides students who attain membership with service and leadership opportunities, as well as the right to apply for scholarship funds to further their postsecondary education.

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.

Remember, get involved and stay involved, as this will only serve to improve your future job prospects.

## FMTC Recognized by Public Relations Association

FMTC recently won two 1st place Sunshine Medallion Awards from the Sunshine State School Public Relations Association (SUNSPRA). The entries were judged by public relations professionals throughout the state. The awards were presented for the following projects: *Soaring Scene* – school newspaper and *Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology* promotional video.



## AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

**H**olding a nationally recognized industry certification or license in your field is a powerful tool in your job search tool kit. Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification is the most respected credential available to the automotive technician.

FMTC's Automotive Service Technology (AST) program is accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). NATEF grants accreditation and re-accreditation to programs that comply with evaluation procedures, meets established standards, and adheres to strict policies. The program is accredited in all 8 areas: engine repair, automatic transmission transaxle, manual drive train and axles, suspension and steering, brakes, electrical/electronic systems, heating and air conditioning, and engine performance.

Automotive Service Technology instructors, Mr. Ron Ellis, Mr. Monte Hamsher, and Mr. Todd Robarge, are all ASE Master Service Technicians who recently became recertified for five years. Mr. Hamsher and Mr. Robarge are also Advanced Engine Performance Specialist (LI) certified. For today's car owner, auto repair is more complicated than ever. Vehicles keep getting more complex, while technology and diagnostic tools constantly change as well. The need for competent, knowledgeable automotive professionals is imperative.

In addition to passing an ASE Certification test, automotive technicians must have two years of on-the-job training or one year of on-the-job training and a two-year degree in automotive repair to qualify for certification. The exams are not easy. Only two out of every three test-takers pass on their first attempt. To remain ASE certified, professionals must retest every five years to keep up with ever-advancing automotive technology.

The Automotive Service Technology program's curriculum is aligned with both ASE and Florida Department of Education guidelines. Students have the opportunity to participate in externships at local dealerships and are prepared to take ASE certification examinations.

Mr. Steve Hubbard, owner of Sustained Motion Car Collection and Mr. Terry Wynter, owner of Terry Wynter Auto Service Center, are both long-time supporters of FMTC students and have contributed their time and money to the AST program. For several years, they have reimbursed AST students who successfully pass ASE certification examinations.

Visit FMTC's website or talk to your instructor about the certifications available in your career field.



Monte Hamsher, Todd Robarge, Ron Ellis

## WEB STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FORT MYERS HACKATHON

By Dr. Dante Cioffi

From June 5-7, 2015, Fort Myers Technical College (FMTC) **Web Application Development & Programming** students participated in the 2nd Annual Fort Myers Hackathon. The Southwest Florida Regional Technology Partnership ([www.swfrtp.org](http://www.swfrtp.org)) organized the Hackathon as part of the National Civic Day of Hacking-(HackForChange.org). A Hackathon is an event that occurs over a short period of time, usually



Dean, MC & Will

a weekend, during which teams develop a solution (hardware and/or software) to solve a problem of some sort. Hackathon teams often develop a mobile app, Web site or hardware device(s).

The FMTC team consisted of Dean Betty, Will Carta and MC Louigene. Advisors were Dr. Dante Cioffi and Rob Mitchell. The team performed well, developing two different projects: an application to improve firefighter safety and a mobile app to improve health. The team also appeared in footage for the Hackathon on local NBC News affiliate, Channel 2!



MC in fire suit





by Steve Dougherty, Student Affairs Specialist

Those of you who have attended FMTC 101 have heard me discuss our school's attendance policies and dress code policies, so you're aware of the importance that we put upon both. We do not place that emphasis without good reason. We do so because attendance and appearance are prime employability traits that are highly valued by perspective employers.

One of our goals as an institution is to make certain that those students we send out into the world of work are prepared to immediately step into his or her job and do it well. To be the kind of an exemplary employee we strive to create, our students must not only be able to do their job, they must also be ready and willing to comply with all the requirements of employment, including dress code and attendance policies.

Unlike a purely academic facility, FMTC has and enforces both a dress code and an attendance policy. Neither policy is intended to be punitive, but is instead intended to create an atmosphere similar to that found in the work place. As an employer does, we expect our students to come to class dressed for the job. If the program requires a specific uniform, we expect our students to arrive "dressed for work" in the program approved uniform. Fuccillo Kia is a prime example. Their service department wears a specific uniform, the sales staff has one, and the office staff is required to dress in business casual clothing. In the work world, this is HUGE. Most employers, from the US Military to McDonald's, have some kind of dress requirement.

Attendance is very important to both the employer and you. After all, you don't get paid if you don't show up. Employers schedule their personnel to specific hours

because those hours are important to the employer regardless of the line of work. If your boss wants you to report for work on a 7-3 shift, he won't like it if you routinely come in at 7:20 and leave at 2:35. A 7:00 a.m. start time isn't approximate or negotiable with most employers and neither is the clock-out time. The boss expects you to be on time, and he expects you to work your full shift. If you are routinely late for work, leave early, or if you are chronically absent, you will not remain employed for very long. FMTC, much like an employer, has specific hours during which our students are expected to be present. Much like an employer, FMTC requires students to punch in at the beginning of the "work" day and punch out at the end. If you are routinely late for class or leave early on a consistent basis, or if you're often absent, the time will add up and will eventually impact your ability to maintain the required 90% attendance. Absences also can have a negative effect on a student's financial aid or VA Benefits. As a technical college, we have a bit more flexibility in dealing with attendance problems than do employers. We'll identify the issue, discuss the situation with the student, and work to find a way to help the student continue and ultimately complete the program. Employers, on the other hand, want their people on the job, on time, all day, every day. If an employee regularly fails to meet the company attendance requirements, that employee will shortly be looking for a new job.

As you clock in and out each day, I hope that it reminds you that our goal at FMTC is to not only provide the opportunity to learn a skill to obtain a job, but also to provide the opportunity to learn and retain the employability traits that will help insure that you keep a job.



My name is Michele Witlin and I am FMTC's new Career Specialist. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to the students, faculty, and staff for welcoming me onto the Fort Myers campus. It is a privilege and a unique opportunity to



Michele Witlin

work with a diverse and multi-talented group of individuals at this institution. My goal as the Career Specialist at FMTC is to continue fostering collaboration, cooperation, and communication

between all students, staff and faculty, the community, and potential employers.

As your Career Specialist and an integral part of your Student Services department, you can expect these and many other services:

- ✓ Deliver comprehensive career exploration and career planning services/programs to students and alumni
- ✓ Offer individual career counseling and advisement appointments
- ✓ Provide career development, i.e. résumé, portfolio, and cover letter workshops
- ✓ Assist students with job placement that is consistent with their vocational training and career goals
- ✓ Coordinate the externship and cooperative education programs at FMTC
- ✓ Serve as a liaison between students, the community, and employers

Fostering these relationships is key to building a strong foundation between our students, community, and employers. Please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached through the main office at 334-4544 ext. 327 or via e-mail at [michelejew@leeschools.net](mailto:michelejew@leeschools.net). If you would like to speak in person, I am always available to schedule appointments before, during, and after school.

## Practical Nursing Graduates – June 30, 2015



Meghan Dwyer, Lisemode Brignol, Nicole Styles, Eileen Urrutia, Sacha Mahaley, and Dawne Villanueva



*Nurses are  
the heart of  
healthcare.*

## 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
- Central Sterile **NEW** Processing Technology
- Cloud Computing & **NEW** Virtualization
- Commercial Foods & Culinary Arts
- Construction Workforce Connection
- Correctional Officer
- Cosmetology
- Crossover Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Officer
- Crossover Law Enforcement Officer to Correctional Officer
- Drafting (CAD)
- Early Childhood Education
- Electricity
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Medical Technician-ATD **NEW**
- Fire Fighter
- Florida Law Enforcement Officer
- IV Therapy
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Major Appliance & Refrigeration Repair
- Marine Service Technologies
- Medical Administrative Specialist
- Medical Coder/ Biller
- .NET Application Development & Programming
- Nursing Assistant-Articulated
- Nursing Assistant-Long-term Care
- Patient Care Assistant
- Phlebotomy
- Plumbing Technology
- Turbine Generator Maintenance, Inspection and Repair
- Web Application Development & Programming
- Welding Technology

**For registration information call (239) 334-4544**

## Graduation Ceremony

On May 28, 2015, FMTC held its annual graduation ceremony. More than 800 people attended the ceremony at Fort Myers High School. Graduates, their families, and FMIT staff were all smiles as they paid tribute to the hard work and accomplishments of the graduating students. The graduates marched in, smiling and some crying tears of joy, as this ceremony marked a momentous milestone in their journey toward success.

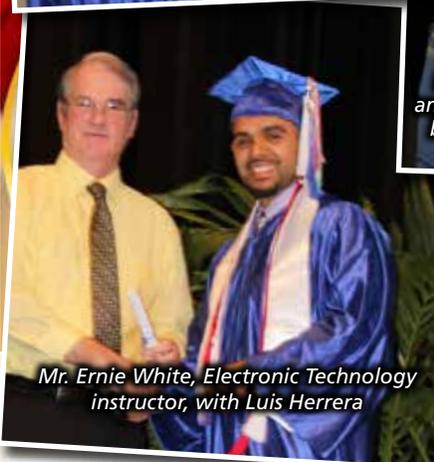
# Class OF 2015



Medical Coder/Biller graduate Jessica Ross



Wanda Santos with daughters Jaszlyn and Jeniah; Melissa Ramos with sons Michaelangelo and Deangelo. Ms. Santos and Ms. Ramos have been best friends since middle school and both graduated from the Medical Administrative Specialist. Both recently accepted positions at local doctors' offices.



Mr. Ernie White, Electronic Technology instructor, with Luis Herrera



Aryanna, Shawn, and Medical Administrative Specialist graduate, Krystal Olson. Both Mr. & Mrs. Olson are Army veterans. Mrs. Olson recently accepted a position at a podiatrist's office.



Logan Pufahl with Mr. Mike Esterline, Marine Service Technologies instructor



Khrystie Gonzalez, Carpentry-Class Speaker



Cosmetology graduates Mercedes Sanchez, Beth Herrera, Daviana Gonzalez, & Emily Hampton



Cosmetology graduate Sydney McGehee with her son