



Press release

Florida Ready to Work

Sarasota County School District
Career & Technical Education
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sarasota County Students Earn Workforce Readiness Credentials

Sarasota, FL, June 4, 2008. The School District of Sarasota County, Career & Technical Education (CTE) department today announced that over 100 students were awarded the *Florida Ready to Work (FRW)* credential in May. Students from district high schools participated in this career readiness program to demonstrate to potential employers that they have specific core skills needed to learn new jobs. Recognizing a tighter job market and the need to gain a competitive edge, these Sarasota students passed three Workkeys assessments in applied math, reading for information, and locating information. Workkeys, developed by ACT, Inc., is a research-based job skills assessment system measuring real-world skills that employers believe are critical to success. The Florida Ready to Work Credential's foundation is based on WorkKeys.

As Sarasota students earn Florida Ready to Work credentials, workforce partnerships with local industry have been developing. In recognition of the higher skills and higher standards that credentialed students demonstrate, the following local businesses and organizations have agreed to become employer partners with Florida Ready to Work:

Applebee's Restaurant North Port
Pierce Manufacturing
PGT Industries
Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Hyatt
Nielsen Media Research

Tervis Tumbler
Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
North Port Chamber of Commerce
Latin Chamber of Commerce
Wal-Mart North Port

Businesses interested in partnering with the Florida Ready to Work program can work with Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI), which has recently become established as a FRW Assessment Center. SCTI is available to provide the FRW assessments for area jobseekers.

In Sarasota, the District's Career & Technical Education department directed by Mellissa Morrow has enrolled students in grades 10–12 in the Florida Ready to Work program. Sharon Albrecht, FRW program coordinator, is spearheading the business outreach event.

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About Florida Ready to Work. Florida Ready to Work is a career readiness credential program funded by the Florida Legislature and administered by the Florida Department of Education, Division of Workforce Education. Locally, the initiative is implemented by the Sarasota County School District. For more information, visit www.FloridaReadyToWork.com.