

Automotive and Public Safety Training Center

The Ybor City Campus is very proud of its newest location for automotive and public service training. On May 26, 2008, the Ybor City Campus Fire Academy began its first class at the new facility located at 5610 Columbus Drive in Tampa. This new location, purchased by the college in 2006 for \$5 million, was recently approved by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training for use as a state certified fire training center. Numerous properties had been evaluated and rejected for reasons such as proximity to residential areas and environmental concerns, but the Columbus location turned out to be perfect.

Certified training props to train future firefighters in combating automobile fires, natural gas fires, and flammable liquid fires were designed in house by HCC personnel. Construction of these devices was accomplished by Gasmasters, Inc., whose technicians also played a major role in the design and engineering of the props. Commercially designed and engineered systems of this type typically cost \$250,000 or more, but HCC was able to complete the job for approximately \$50,000. In addition, when impact fees for connection to the City of Tampa's municipal water system were assessed at \$460,000, HCC opted to design, engineer, and construct its own system consisting of a well, a 43,000-gallon storage tank, dual pumps with a combined capacity of 3,200 gallons per minute, and three hydrants to supply training activities. The cost of the entire system was significantly less than the proposed impact fee by itself.

The final piece to the certification process required adequate fire apparatus to support training activities. This was accomplished by the donation of a 1978 Mack pumper by Plant City Fire Rescue and the purchase of a 1991 Pierce pumper and 1982 Sutphen 85-foot tower ladder from Zephyrhills Fire Rescue. The total cost of these acquisitions was \$75,000 for equipment that, if purchased commercially, would have exceeded \$300,000.

Along with the efforts of the college administration, which researched and purchased the property, the HCC Ybor City Campus Automotive and Public Safety Training Center is a result of the time, efforts, and contributions of many individuals. To begin, Dr. Shawn Robinson and Dean Jack Evans kept the project on track and moving forward; David Cabeceiras and Ben Marshall from HCC Facilities Planning and Construction helped to transform the drawings on paper into a reality. Second, Terry Fryman and the HCC Purchasing Department assisted greatly in fielding questions about needed materials to build the center, and they were always available to help untangle purchasing problems that arose along the way. In addition, Steve Cona and the HCC apprenticeship program at Associated Builders and Contractors designed, engineered, and constructed a forcible entry training simulator for teaching forcible entry procedures to future firefighters. The end product was one that far exceeded those available on the commercial market with the entire cost of materials and labor donated to the HCC Fire Academy. And finally, the Fire Academy instructors contributed their ideas and expertise to every step of the project.



Auto Body Repair Technician

Learn the skills essential to becoming an auto body repair technician. This course provides training in all areas vital to the collision repair industry. This includes:

- Estimating and damage appraisal.
- Structural and non-structural repairs.
- Cutting and welding.
- Plastic repairs.
- Accident related mechanical repair.
- Refinishing.

You will also learn metal, fiberglass, and mold fabrication, as well as in-depth custom painting techniques. The fourth semester is a 400-hour internship in a repair facility that allows our students to enter a real world repair environment and experience the complete repair process. It will also give students extensive hands-on opportunities that will enhance skill levels as well as motivate and build confidence in their work.



Cyber Café Mural

When the rough draft of the art mural was first presented by the Art Department to the Ybor City Student Government Association (Ybor SGA) for a vote of approval, it was evident that this would be a great way to capture the culture and history of Ybor City to bring to the students. From the Interstate-4 highway to the popular lamp post, the mural illustrates the essence that makes Ybor what it is today. It also captures the various performing arts programs of the Ybor Campus such as music, art, dance and photography, which are all a part of the Ybor City culture. In addition to the Cyber Café furnishings, it was an easy decision for the Ybor SGA to vote for and fund the mural project. It took the entire summer to complete the project, but when the mural was finished, the hard work of the art students was illuminated in the masterpiece that they had created. These students were Sasha Brock, Lisa Harasiuk, Laura Mendes, Mariel Salisbury, and William Stryffeler.

The students worked hard on the Cyber Café mural, every step being supervised by Art Director Jeanne Cameron. On the day of the mural unveiling presentation to the campus, the Cyber Café was packed full of students who supported and attended the event. Several administrators and staff were also present, including Campus President Dr. Shawn Robinson, Dean of Student Services Dr. Linda Herlocker, Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Emery Alford, and Student Activities Advisor Edna Jones Miller. Members of the Ybor City SGA Executive Board were also present: Oswald Shodeinde-president, Vanessa Wellington-VP, Lencia Walters-secretary, Eastell Thomas-treasurer.

The mural connects students to the soul and culture of Ybor and also solidifies the reputation of the Ybor City Campus as the ideal institution for the visual and performing arts. This mural reminds our students that they, themselves, are part of history.