Hillsborough Community College Awarded
U.S. Department of Labor Grant

Tampa – Hillsborough Community College has been awarded a three-year, $500,000 U.S. Department of Labor grant. HCC was awarded this highly competitive grant to expand the role of Technology Based Learning (TBL) in an effort to increase access to training for skilled workers needed to support the growth and demand of Florida’s advanced manufacturing industry. Twenty projects were selected nationwide from a pool of 193 applicants.

“This grant will help HCC and its partners expand opportunities to create the knowledge-based workers needed to support and sustain Florida’s important manufacturing industry” said HCC President Gwen Stephenson.

Led by HCC’s statewide resource center, the Employ Florida Banner Center for Manufacturing, and partner Polk Community College, the project will focus on the addition of online learning opportunities and high-tech simulations, using industry-relevant curricula. Additionally, the project will enhance and disseminate the Center’s existing Manufacturing Essentials and Manufacturing Fundamentals training curriculum to provide HCC’s statewide partners with tools necessary to serve the advanced manufacturing workforces in their regions. These modular training curricula prepare incumbent and entry-level trainees to take the four assessments leading to the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council’s Certified Production Technician (CPT) credential, which is an industry-recognized credential, and a part of Florida’s unified education pathway for modern manufacturing, including the Engineering Technology Associate in Science (A.S.) degree.

“The Banner Center for Manufacturing exemplifies the power of partnerships,” said Chris Hart IV, President of Workforce Florida, Inc., the state’s workforce policy and oversight board that created Banner Centers to bolster training in high-skill, high-wage industries. “We applaud Hillsborough Community College and Polk Community College, along with their partners, for their leadership and responsiveness to the needs of Florida manufacturers seeking better skilled talent to remain competitive in today’s global economy.”

HCC serves over 43,000 students annually at five campuses throughout Hillsborough County. The Employ Banner Center for Manufacturing is located at the Brandon Campus.