



## SPOTLIGHT

# Industrial Technologies

## STC PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Suncoast Technical College (STC) works closely with CareerSource Suncoast, a private, non-profit corporation that helps businesses grow by providing workforce solutions for talent recruitment and development as well as helping job seekers and workers to manage their careers. Their Journey to Success program (J2S), is a work readiness, leadership and career development program serving high school seniors and out of school young adults (ages 18-24 years old). When asked to be involved in 2013, STC designed a curriculum for a 6-week summer course that included Habitat for Humanity to help educate students. Integrating Habitat for Humanity allowed students to learn valuable skills, give back to their community and gain community service hours.

In 2015, a Building Construction Technology class began on the main campus of Suncoast Technical College. As part of the curriculum, instructor Nicholas DiLorenzo added two days per week of Habitat for Humanity volunteering, which fulfilled the practical portion of the class requirements. It also enabled hands on learning for students in a controlled, real life, residential construction setting. The collaboration was a huge success and led to other STC trades becoming involved.

The collaboration effort now includes classes including Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology, Plumbing Technology, Carpentry and Electricity. The partnership between Habitat for Humanity and Suncoast Technical College has generated so much success that they plan to work together in building a house from the ground up and dedicate it to a Sarasota family in need. This collaborative effort has been a win, win for everyone involved and as quoted by instructor Nick DiLorenzo, "I hope we can continue to build (literally) for the future success of our students and families through partnerships and programs like Habitat for Humanity."