



# COMMISSION FOR INDEPENDENT EDUCATION STAFF NEWS

SAMUEL L. FERGUSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## In this issue

[Meeting Information](#) | [Job-Training](#) | [College Graduates](#) | [Articulation Agreements](#) | [Meeting Dates](#)

## Dates to Remember

November 16  
-Commission Meeting

October 18  
-Renewals due January  
Meeting

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## Commission Meeting Information

November 16, 2011 beginning at 9 a.m.

### [Mission Inn Resort & Club](#)

10400 County Road 48  
Howey-In-The-Hills, FL 34737  
(800) 874-9053

### [Map](#)

Visit the Commission [website](#) for the agenda and to view the webcast.

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## Improving America's Job-Training Strategy

The July 7, 2011 issue of the Daytona Beach News-Journal featured an editorial entitled "Nation should improve job-training strategy." The article begins with the commonly-held belief that "...college was a ticket to a good job and a successful career. It was assumed that as more kids graduated from high school and then went on to college, the smarter we would be as a nation." The article then upends that notion by asking that if we now have more college graduates than ever, why does the nation have "...high unemployment, massive underemployment and a demand for skilled workers who do not exist in states with 10 percent unemployment?"

The editorial relates the story of Ultra Scientific Analytical Solutions, a company from Rhode Island that can not find skilled workers. "The owner expects to add up to 20 positions in the next year. Yet the chemical company isn't finding candidates with the skills or training." The problem for Ultra Scientific, as well as for many other companies, is that "In a nation that is home to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University, we are unbelievably not churning out enough professionals in the middle." We are not producing enough workers with associate's degrees or technical diplomas that can understand the "...complex machines, processes and systems that exist in so many U.S. workplaces."

According to the Georgetown Center on Education, there will be 47 million jobs created in America by 2018. Though some of these new occupations will be in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that will demand 4-year degrees, masters degrees and doctoral degrees, nearly half of those STEM-related jobs will require the specialized training that comes with an associate's degree. "The associate's degree in a vocation or a STEM discipline is perhaps the most underrated degree in America today."

"Teaching students at vocational and workforce-oriented colleges is the wave of the future." As technological innovation advances, people have to be trained to operate the technology. That is the type of training provided by the institutions licensed by the Commission for Independent Education. To be a successful nation we shall "...need

workers to understand the machines that make our food, drugs, chemicals and rockets. We need workers to run the machines that we feared would replace our workers." We must remember the important role that our licensed institutions will play in securing America's future.

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## Career College Graduates Score Full-Time Jobs

A press release, from the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities and presented in the August 2011 (Section 2) issue of *Career Education Review*, discusses the success of bachelor degree graduates from four-year private sector colleges and universities (PSCUs) versus the same graduates from traditional public or private non-profit universities. The data from the recently released United States Department of Education's Longitudinal Study (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011236.pdf>) "...reported that 67.9 percent of 4-year PSCU bachelor's degree recipients were employed at one full-time job, compared to 56.5 percent of 4-year public and 56.3 percent of 4-year private non-profit universities."

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## The Florida College System Offers Industry Certification Articulation Agreements

The Florida College System (formerly called the Community College System) is offering a fabulous opportunity to students that hold an industry certification or hold licensure in certain "Gold Standard" industry recognized credentials. These industry credentials are recognized by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Recognized credentials, that also have articulation agreements, allow students to apply their certification or licensure as course credit if they choose to obtain an Associate of Science degree at a Florida College System institution. This mechanism saves the students time and money in their pursuit of a postsecondary education.

The Department of Education has developed a mechanism for eliminating unnecessary barriers to student articulation as part of the State Board of Education's goal of seamless articulation and maximum access. Articulation of this credit applies whether the industry credentials were earned in high school or those same industry credentials were earned after high school. Since 2006, the State Board of Education has approved 102 statewide articulation agreements that allow certain industry certifications to be applied to Associate in Science degrees. In an effort to establish educational pathways to promote student movement up the college and career ladder, these agreements guarantee college credit for "Gold Standard" industry-recognized credentials. Each agreement ensures that the student has met a specified level of competency as validated by a third party (i.e. industry certification, professional licensure).

These agreements will become increasingly important given the increase in the number of students who are pursuing industry credentials in a variety of areas. Articulation agreements provide incentives for students to pursue a higher level of postsecondary education and eliminate the need for students to repeat coursework to obtain competencies that have already been mastered and documented. This reduction of required credit, based on demonstration of competencies, will save money for both students (tuition and lost earnings as a result of delayed employment) and the state (funding for repeat instruction).

In order to receive this credit, a student must be admitted to a college in the Florida College System and enroll in the A.A.S. or A.S. degree program named in the articulation agreement within three years of earning their industry certification or licensure. A student must request the articulated college credit for an industry certification and show their certificate at registration.

To view all 102 Gold Standard Career Pathways Industry Certification Articulation Agreements, go to [http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic\\_indcert2aas.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/artic_indcert2aas.asp).

For further information, contact John McNeely at (850) 245-9028 or

## Commission Meeting Dates and Locations

### **November 16, 2011**

Howey-In-The-Hills

New Institution Applications Due: July 18, 2011

All Other Applications Due: August 17, 2011

### **January 4, 2012**

Howey-In-The-Hills

New Institution Applications Due: September 16, 2011

All Other Applications Due: October 18, 2011