

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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
Kathleen Taylor, Interim Chancellor  
Division of Career and Adult Education



February 24, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Career and Technical Education Directors

**FROM:** Kathleen Taylor,  Interim Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education

**SUBJECT:** Career Academy Technical Assistance

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During the 2011 legislative session, legislation passed which established s.1003.4935, Florida Statutes "Middle School Career and Professional Academy Courses" that requires each district to implement a career and professional academy in at least one middle school as part of its strategic 5-year plan. To assist school districts with this effort, Workforce Florida Inc. (WFI) has funded a technical assistance demonstration project designed to facilitate the establishment of 15 Information Technology (IT) career academies in middle schools. These new academies will prepare students to sit for the foundational or "gateway" Information Technology (IT) certifications from Microsoft, Adobe, CIW, and others.

WFI has contracted with The Whetstone Group (TWG) to provide the comprehensive technical assistance needed to design, develop and implement a CAPE compliant Middle School IT Career Academy. Each participating school will receive access to TWG's subject matter experts and a step by step process for establishing a sustainable IT Career Academy. In addition TWG's partner, CCI Learning Solutions, a Microsoft Academy Partner will provide additional assistance as detailed in the attached Career Academy Technical Assistance Information Sheet.

I encourage you to review the attached Career Academy Technical Assistance Information Sheet. This sheet contains contact information should you like to follow-up directly with the team at TWG. A Request to Participate form is also attached for your convenience.

KT/bc

Attachments