

Education Notebook: First Coast Technical College creates employment pipeline to Northrop Grumman



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For more than two decades, First Coast Technical College has provided a steady stream of trained employees for Northrop Grumman, one of St. Johns County's major employers.

Now a recently finalized partnership with Goodwill Industries of North Florida is bringing in even more prospective employees.

The Goodwill A-STEP (Academic Support through the Employment Process) Program screens and prepares prospective students for the Aircraft Fabrication program, then provides individualized support to ensure students' academic success and job placement. Students receive interview preparation and resume assistance from FCTC and Goodwill.

With more than 85,000 employees and an annual revenue in excess of \$30 billion, Northrop Grumman is one of the world's largest weapons manufacturers and military technology providers. The company hires technical and proficient workers who must have the quality education necessary for high-skilled, high-wage jobs.

This partnership is saving Northrop Grumman money on the cost of training entry-level employees. These individuals are qualified for any position in the manufacturing field, not just Northrop Grumman.

According to Arleen Dennison, FCTC's College Advancement Coordinator, the classes add a stable pipeline to a rapidly changing and demanding industry.

"Now, because of the highly specialized school curriculum, Northrop Grumman is able to hire enough skilled workers with hands-on training to meet their needs," Dennison said in a press release.