

## PRESS RELEASE



### Construction Technology Careers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY CAREERS PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES LOWES GRANT FOR \$10,000

(Manatee and Sarasota Counties) --- Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation has awarded Construction Technology Careers (CTC) a grant of \$10,000. The money will be used for CTC's preapprenticeship training for high school juniors and seniors pursuing careers in the construction trades following graduation.

"This isn't just an investment in the future of these hard-working young adults. It's an investment in Lowe's future workforce in the Sunshine State," explained Jim Frasso, Lowe's regional vice president of store operations. "This program is just one example of the way Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation is committed to youth in the communities we serve, especially those pursuing trades related careers."

Lowe's currently operates 61 home improvement warehouse stores in Florida and employs more than 9,400 people in the state. Lowe's credits approximately a quarter its sales to business from its commercial customers. Florida is expected to play a significant role in Lowe's future expansion plans.

Mark Kennell, CTC Volunteer Chairman for the Suncoast Workforce Board, was thrilled to receive the \$10,000 grant. "Our young preapprenticeship program has a much brighter future, thanks to Lowe's support. We can enhance our enrollment of preapprentices as well as our CTC mentor program," added Kennell.

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***Together we're building your future workforce!***

### **About CTC**

CTC is a growing and unique preapprenticeship initiative that targets junior and senior high school students for potential careers in plumbing, masonry, carpentry, HVAC and electrical. Founded in 2001, the program indentured 28 students last spring alone, all co-enrolled at the Sarasota County Technical Institute (SCTI) or the Manatee Technical Institute (MTI). CTC, a workforce development program, is supported financially by the two area school districts, the Suncoast Workforce Board and an increasing number of regional construction employers and trade associations, including the Gulf Coast Builders Exchange. It is volunteer driven and is being presented as a “Best Practices Model” at the National Association of Workforce Boards annual conference in Washington DC on March 15<sup>th</sup>. More information is available by calling 361-6090 ext 113 or by visiting [www.ConstructionTechnologyCareers.org](http://www.ConstructionTechnologyCareers.org).

### **About Lowe's**

Lowe's is a proud supporter of Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, United Way of America, and the Home Safety Council, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities across the country. Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation awards more than \$2 million annually to diverse organizations across the United States. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer program aimed at preventing unintentional home injuries. Lowe's, a FORTUNE 100 company with fiscal year 2003 sales of \$30.8 billion, has more than 950 stores in 45 states. For more information, visit [Lowes.com/community](http://Lowes.com/community).

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