

Education

The City of Port St. Lucie is home to one of the best public education systems, higher education consortiums and research centers in the southeast region of the United States.

The St. Lucie public school system allows students to be introduced to many opportunities to acquire skills, both academically and vocationally, that empower them to be prepared for higher education. St. Lucie has 24 distinguished five-star schools and 34 golden schools -- awards given for community involvement. The schools also have been named as one of the Top 100 wired schools for outstanding technology and among the best in the nation by *Newsweek*. Treasure Coast High School offers a Ninth Grade Academy, allowing students to make connections with peers, and the establishment of core learning communities which focus on: international business, sports marketing, new media technology and biotechnology. The district is also home to St. Lucie County School Superintendent Michael Lannon, who was named the 2007 Florida Superintendent of the Year, and to 2006 Florida Teacher of the Year, Kerri Walukiewicz. In addition, the district is breaking ground on an innovative Charter Lab School for grades K-8, to be located in Port St. Lucie's Town of Tradition. The school is a partnership with Florida Atlantic University and will focus on the newest teaching methods in the education profession.



Florida Atlantic University's Marine Science Partnership Building will be a welcome addition to the Treasure Coast educational landscape.



The Kight Center for Emerging Technologies is a nationally recognized center for education in the latest technologies.

Indian River Community College offers more than 100 two-year degrees and short-term certificates. Graduates are guaranteed transfer to a Florida public university. Beginning in 2008, IRCC will offer four-year degrees in teaching, nursing, and applied science with specialization in health care management, organizational management and public safety administration. IRCC features the recently completed Kight Center for Emerging Technologies. The \$20 million facility offers programs in digital media, robotics, biomedical, avionics, industrial automation and telecommunications. IRCC was designated the #1 mid-sized community college in the nation for technology by the American Association of



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Community Colleges. IRCC is also home to the new Florida State University College of Medicine and the new 50-acre Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex which will focus on the newest programs in the growing homeland security profession. IRCC continues to adopt and adapt to new technologies, this is evident by their cutting edge program in biomedical electronics and the potential workforce the college will supply to new the City's corporate partners like the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies.

Florida Atlantic University offers more than 170 types of degrees, including the 20 degree programs available at the Treasure Coast campus in located in Port St. Lucie. The university focuses on the core values of educate, research, serve and prepare.

According to *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, a magazine that focuses on education issues for minorities, FAU ranks 20th nationally for English language and literature master degrees conferred upon African-Americans and 63rd for number of master degrees conferred upon Hispanic students. FAU has received unanimous approval of the Board of Governors to expand its medical education partnership with the University of Miami to a full, four-year program. The school also



Students take advantage of the inviting campus of Florida Atlantic University.



An IRCC student uses the high-tech equipment at IRCC's Kight Center.

has the only accredited program for construction safety through a partnership with the University of South Florida. FAU's distance learning technology empowers instructors to reach any of FAU's 26,000 students at any campus.

Barry University offers more than 50 undergraduate degrees with an attractive student-to-faculty ratio (14:1), plus they provide customized training programs for corporations to create workforce-ready, employable students. At Barry, students find outstanding programs in adult and continuing education, arts and sciences, business, communication, education, graduate medical sciences, human performance and leisure sciences, law, natural and health sciences, nursing, psychology, social work and theology. In its 2007 Edition of America's Best Colleges, *U.S. News & World Report*

ranked Barry University in the top tier of Master's Universities in the Southeast region.

Keiser University is a private university offering degrees in health, business and computer technology fields. Warner Southern College, a Christian institution, has a location in Port St. Lucie and offers 27 bachelor degrees and 3 masters programs.

The Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is partnering with Florida Atlantic University to create the \$11 million, 40,000 square-foot Marine Science Building for Marine Research and Education. FAU has also partnered with the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies for a joint research facility to bring together researchers and students to collaborate of projects. For more than 35 years, Harbor Branch has celebrated a rich history of ocean exploration, research and education.

The University of Florida/Indian River Research and Education Center is part of the university's statewide Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). IFAS is one of the nation's top four largest universities and is known for distinguished research in agriculture. With 67 county Extension Services and 14 Research/Education Centers, IFAS is highlighted by bachelor programs in Agribusiness Management and Environmental Management. The center will have a new \$3.8 million Biological Control Research and Containment Laboratory where scientists will study invasive plants to help preserve the state's \$62 billion agricultural industry.

The Smithsonian Marine Station is a research center specializing in marine bio-diversity and ecosystems of Florida. Research focuses on the Indian River Lagoon and the offshore waters of Florida's east central coast, with comparative studies throughout coastal Florida. The station is a facility of the National Museum of Natural History, a part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and serves as a field station which draws up to 100 top scientists and students each year from the Smithsonian and collaborating institutions around the world.

The Treasure Coast area is home to 17 different research facilities that allow the opportunities of learning to continue for a life time. The facilities specialize in biotechnology, horticulture, marine sciences and other fields. Highlighted by the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies and Smithsonian Marine Station, Port St. Lucie has helped create a corridor of learning that stretches along the east coast of Florida.



A medical assistant student doing lab work at Keiser University.



FAU's beautiful campus in Port St. Lucie provides students with rich opportunities for learning.