



**FLORIDA'S  
BEST**

Business and Education  
Partnerships

Rahal Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, Nissan  
Chipola College  
Marianna, Florida

## **Innovative Technology in Automotive Training**

### ***Program Overview***

Innovative Technology in Automotive Training is a training program that utilizes an industry-based curriculum. Partnership with the local Rahal Chevrolet, Buick, Cadillac, Nissan dealership gives Chipola College students the competitive edge in this ever-changing high-tech training environment. Chipola College's Master Certified National Automotive Training Education Foundation (NATEF) program provides a platform for employment in a high-wage career. Dealership participation affords students exposure to industry based curriculum, industry tools, hands-on experience, use of the latest software, industry networking, and training on a variety of vehicles.

### ***Core Objectives***

Chipola's partnership allows it to utilize donations locally and on the national level. The industrial program objective is to keep abreast in this technologically sophisticated industry. Partnership effectiveness is evident in the utilization of a three-step approach: classroom work, computer laboratory, and shop/dealership that ensures each student's success and 100% mastery of each area.

### ***Partnership***

With Rahal's corporate sponsorship (General Motors, Nissan), training opportunities for students and instructors exist that would not be possible otherwise. Increased class enrollment and higher retention rates, along with more graduates earning a competitive salary, are all benefits of this powerful partnership.

### ***Major Activities***

The program is governed by an automotive advisory committee. The committee works in conjunction with the adopted curriculum to achieve program objectives. The committee also facilitates training through new vehicle awareness seminars, pre-delivery inspections, and new equipment demonstrations. Technicians representing advisory committee member firms also provide computer diagnostics and programming on new vehicles.

### ***Achievements***

The program has achieved national master certification. The program and curriculum have been implemented at several state automotive training facilities that include technical centers, high schools, and colleges. Florida State Senator Steve Wise of Jacksonville and many other state officials have visited and utilized the program as a state model.

### ***Program Awareness***

The program has gained national recognition through the NATEF master certification process. Chipola's program was featured in "Tomorrow's Technician Magazine" by Babcox Publishers and at the Florida Association of Career and Technical Education (FACTE) conference in Orlando. This resulted in program replication at other institutions across the state.

### ***Replicating Success***

The overall cost of the program is kept to a minimum due to computerized components located on a central file server which also allows for easy modifications at no cost. Industry-based curriculums and methods of delivery over computer networks are reproduced and used as a part of the replicated training.

### ***Student Success Story***

Our greatest student success story was chosen as the All-American Success Story winner for the region. The Chipola program received \$5,000 and it validated the effectiveness of the curriculum. He took advantage of every opportunity to teach, help, and work on automobiles for local people in need. He also overcame socioeconomic adversity through hard work and research, through which he earned several grants that are available through the program.

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United States Navy, Naval Air Station, Whiting Field  
Santa Rosa Adult School  
The SITE Program (Skills for Independence, Transition and Employment)  
Milton, Florida

### **Employability Skills for Adults with Disabilities**

#### ***Program Overview***

The objective of the SITE program is to provide instruction to 18 to 21 year old young adults with disabilities who have completed their high school program but are in need of continued training. The goal is to provide them with the necessary skills to allow them to become independent, responsible, and contributing members of the community. The central location at NAS Whiting Field allows the students the use of a grocery store, bank, post office, and restaurants to teach them employability skills, specific work skills, social skills, and functional academic skills in the environments in which the skills will be used. Through a plant service business, students have acquired functional academics, socialization, and self-awareness through a process that has been very beneficial for both the students and members of the community.

#### ***Core Objectives***

The objective is to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to master and generalize the skills required to succeed in the community. The SITE program was established to provide students with instruction in "real world" skills within an age-appropriate, adult-oriented, natural environment. The partnership with the United States Navy has provided numerous natural resources to enable students to safely master and generalize the skills needed to become productive and successful members of our community.

#### ***Major Activities***

Depending on their skill level, community-based instruction occurs on a daily basis, either individually or in small groups. Students work four days a week obtaining work skills at a wide variety of job sites. Throughout the week, extensive instruction in the area of independent living skills is addressed. Such areas include cooking and preparing a meal, making a grocery list, purchasing groceries and following a recipe, buying stamps, and

ordering and paying for a meal in a restaurant. During the 2002-2003 school year, students began a plant project business where they provide various businesses with decorative potted plants. Students maintain records regarding deliveries and care of the plants and are involved in decorating pots, transplanting plants, and seeding.

#### ***Achievements***

This is the fourth successful year of assisting individuals with disabilities in becoming contributing and successful members of the community. Students who entered the program with limited employability skills are gainfully employed, and students who had minimal daily living skills are now living on their own or accepting more adult responsibilities while living with their families

#### ***Replicating Success***

As a secondary program with the Santa Rosa County School District, the program is FTE funded and transportation is provided by the school district to the students who are currently enrolled in six area high schools.

#### ***Student Success Story***

Our student enrolled in the SITE Program as a very introverted young woman with low self-esteem and limited functional academic and daily living skills. She is now employed as a Librarian's Assistant and deals with the public both in person and over the phone. Her self-confidence and job skills have increased to the point that she is able to accept the responsibility of maintaining the operation of the library independently when the librarian is out for the day. Additionally, she works as a cashier at Wal-Mart. Her increase in daily living skills enables her to arrange her own transportation and successfully manage her household finances.

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