



## Media & Community Relations

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### **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **More New Programs at Gulf Coast Community College**

*Meeting increased demand for skilled workers and  
offering job security for graduates*

**Panama City, FL** – Three new programs were approved last week at GCCC’s District Board of Trustees meeting. True to its mission to serve the employment and economic development needs of this region, the college carefully selected and designed the following programs to be added to its course offerings in the near future:

- Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Technology Management
- Sustainable Design Technology Technical Certificate
- Pharmacy Technician, an Applied Technology Diploma Program

**The Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Technology Management** will be GCCC’s first bachelor’s program. This major was chosen based on a workforce need/degree gap analysis the college had recently tasked Hanover Research Company with. Currently, 20 of the 28 Florida Community Colleges are in the process of offering bachelor’s degrees. Contrary to public opinion, the program will not be in competition with FSU PC program offerings, since applied science degrees are more workforce oriented. FSU PC will actually be teaching one of its management courses. Students will be able to choose between two concentrations, i.e. Information Technology or Control Engineering Technology. Based on pending state approvals, the college expects initial program opening in January 2011.

**The Sustainable Design Technology Technical Certificate** will be a follow-up course to the Alternative Energy Engineering Technology Certificate program that is scheduled to commence next spring. Sustainable Design will be ready for student enrollment in Fall 2010, and is designed to prepare students for employment as construction planners, or to provide supplemental training for individuals previously or currently employed in these occupations.



**The Pharmacy Technician Program** has been designed to meet an increasing demand for professional certification. Upon completion of the program, students can sit for the State Pharmacy Technician License Exam. Pharmacy Technician graduates will work under the supervision of a licensed pharmacist and will be able to prepare and issue medicines to customers and process patients' records. This program is also slated to commence in Fall 2010.

The college is committed to meeting local workforce and employer needs and will continue to add new programs as it deems necessary. ***“Our five year strategic plan specifically mentions creating new and exciting programs,”*** said Dr. Jim Kerley, GCCC President. ***“We are pleased that we have stayed aggressive with this endeavor, especially in meeting community needs and helping to create more job opportunities.”***

For more information on the Sustainable Design Technology Program, please contact primary advisor, Antonio Adessi at (850) 769-1551, extension 5887.

For more information on the Pharmacy Technician Program, please contact primary advisor, Randy Chitwood, RN, MSN at (850) 769-1551, extension 5836.

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