

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE OPENS IN PORT CHARLOTTE:  
Fourth Campus in SWFC System Launches with Medical Specialties**



Students wear their white lab coats for a photo during orientation the new Southwest Florida College Port Charlotte campus. Starting in the back row from left to right: Bridgett Camp, Donna Piano, Rachel Perdoch, Karen Black, Edever Taitt, Lenetha Daily, Mett Lidel, Misty Sadakales, Sandra Bailey, Chri Pierce, Ashleigh Perkins, Tracy Reid, Carley Smith, Zayed Robinson, Francine Baptiste, Jameson Hobday, Davonna Stanford, Mary Jo Nebrowski, Nicole Dilonenzo.

Port Charlotte, Fla. (March 13, 2009) – It’s as if you have walked straight into a doctor’s clinic – with an X-Ray machine, scales, microscopes, sterile wash stations, and even an operating room. It’s easy to forget you’re not there for a check-up, except for the fact that the people walking around in white lab coats are actually students and instructors in uniform – learning on the most state-of-the-art medical equipment available.

These features and more are the cornerstone of the 4<sup>th</sup> and newest campus of Southwest Florida College, where students roll up their sleeves to draw blood on each other and use technological advancements such as SMART Boards and mobile wireless computer labs to train for in-demand careers in hospitals and health-care settings.

“A physician could walk into the campus to do an exam and treat a patient just like they would in their office,” said Liz Levine, Allied Health Program Manager for Southwest Florida College.

The Port Charlotte campus, located at 950 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Fla., opened in February with degree and diploma programs Health Information Technology and Medical Billing and Coding Technology, as well as in-depth, accredited preparation for surgical technicians and medical assistants.

The campus also serves as a regional student service center for the college's online degree and diploma programs that include Medical Billing and Coding Technology, Health Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Management and Paralegal Studies.

As a career college, SWFC's programs are directly related to employment and Southwest Florida College takes it one step further by offering lifetime career placement assistance to all qualified graduates. Faculty members bring both academic preparation and industry experience to the classroom, which also helps students make the transition from the classroom to the real world.

Since February of 2009, the Southwest Florida College Port Charlotte campus has enrolled 35 students, all of whom wear white lab coats in their general education classes and scrubs in their laboratory classes each day.

"Wearing the 'uniform' is one of several ways in which we strive to instill in our students a personal sense of professionalism and commitment to their health-care profession," Levine said.

"We are very excited about bringing educational opportunities to the greater Charlotte County area," said Dr. Stephen Calabro, Executive Vice President for Southwest Florida College. "Southwest Florida College has earned a reputation for providing quality career education that leads to jobs in fields with high growth potential. Our presence in Port Charlotte will add to the growing list of educational options for Charlotte County resident and will also extend our reach to other areas as well, such as North Port and Arcadia," he said.

*Southwest Florida College is an accredited private, nonprofit institution centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte and also includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the International Design Center in Estero. Its mission is to provide an education to men and women thereby enabling them to pursue successful careers and lead enriched lives. For more information, call toll free (888) 526-7973 or visit [www.swfc.edu](http://www.swfc.edu).*