



*Photo by: Sara Wierhake, Director of Membership for the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce.
From left to right: Leah Mason, Freshman Studies Program Specialist; Dr. Melanie Roberts, Director of Education; Dr. Stephen Calabro, Executive Vice President; Dr. Barbara Calabro, Vice President of Academics; Ryan Patroni, Admissions Representative; Bonita Steele, Allied Health Program Specialist; Jim Patch, Campus Director for the Tampa campus; Kellie Anderson, Financial Planner; Amy Vargas, Assistant Bursar; Laura Selvey, Director of Financial Aid; Rose Caraballo, Admissions Representative; Alison Parrish, Director of Guest Services; Debbie Baker, Administrator; Crystal Wheeler, Assistant Director of Financial Planning; Ken Reynolds, Director of Admissions; Shannon MacDonald, Campus Director for the Port Charlotte campus; Erika Nolle, College Registrar; Tracy Petrone, Director of IT and Facilities; Diana Rodrigues, Director of Marketing Communications*

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE CELEBRATES WITH RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Port Charlotte, Fla. (April 30, 2009) – The faculty members and staff of Southwest Florida College’s Port Charlotte campus celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, April 30.

The new campus, located at 950 Tamiami Trail, offers diploma programs in Medical Assistant, Medical Billing & Coding Technology and Early Childhood Care and Management, as well as associate programs in Health Information Technology, Medical Assistant and Surgical Technician. Even more programs are anticipated for the near future and are currently in the approval process.

Sara Wierhake, Membership Director for the Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, organized the ribbon cutting.

Wierhake said she was honored to be a part of the opening celebration and ribbon cutting to welcome Southwest Florida College to the community.

“We are thrilled they have chosen to bring their academic programs and dedicated associates to Charlotte County,” Wierhake said. “We wish them every success as they work to meet the current and future needs of our business community, and encourage everyone to visit their facility to discover what they have to offer.”

Professionals from local medical and educational facilities were invited to tour the campus and celebrate with the SWFC staff. Guests were able to see first-hand what Southwest Florida College has to offer.

“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,” said Liz Levine, Allied Health Program Manager for Southwest Florida College.

These features and more are the cornerstone of the fourth 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.

To date, 62 uniformed students in their white lab coats are learning on the most state-of-the-art medical equipment available in their hands-on classes.

“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.

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 help students make the transition from the classroom to the real world.

Southwest Florida College wants everyone to be a part of its celebrations. Come join SWFC for the public grand opening celebration. The festivities will take place from 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 16. There’ll be free fun for all ages, including prizes, face painting, games and balloon art by Paulli the Clown. Live radio broadcast by Wink 96.9 will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Pick-up some free give-aways and enter to win the grand prize of a Nintendo Wii system. There will also be free food by Pop’s Barbeque, snacks and refreshments throughout the day.

The Port Charlotte campus is located at 950 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte, Fla. For more information or for directions to the campus, call 1-888-526-7973 or visit www.swfc.edu.

Southwest Florida College is an accredited, private, nonprofit institution of higher learning centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte, and includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the International Design Center in Estero. The College has been providing post secondary education to Floridians since 1974 and offers programs in Allied Health, Business, Design, Education, Information Technology and Legal Studies. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge and skills that will help prepare them for rewarding careers in fields with high growth potential. For more information, call toll free 888-526-7973 or visit www.swfc.edu.



*Photo by: Brooke Fisher, Drip Marketing Coordinator for Southwest Florida College.
The Surgical Technician classroom at the Southwest Florida College Port Charlotte campus has all the latest technologies and devices that can be found in an operating room. Students practice on life-sized medical dummies and learn on the most state-of-the-art equipment available.*

###