

The School District of Osceola County, FL

Dr. Debra Pace, Superintendent

Press Release (in English and Spanish)

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Osceola School District Partners with BRIDG for SEMI High Tech University's High School Workforce Development Program

With the Osceola School District serving as a key driver for diverse economic development in the Central Florida region, the Osceola County School Board and Superintendent Dr. Debra Pace have greatly expanded the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum being taught in schools so that it directly aligns with workforce needs now and in the future. The district's newest STEM initiative is SEMI High Tech University (SEMI HTU), making Osceola the first school district in Florida to partner with the SEMI Foundation for their internationally-acclaimed high-tech career exploration program for high school students to take place June 13-15, 2017.

Participating students will have the unique opportunity to visit BRIDG, a SEMI High Tech University host and sponsor, for hands-on workshops facilitated by BRIDG technology staff and industry partners to learn about various pathways from school to advanced manufacturing and technology careers, in such areas as advanced sensors, optics, and photonics. In addition to the student program, a teacher program will take place on June 7-8 to connect the classroom experience to careers in technology for educators. These students and teachers will investigate how high-tech STEM solutions are used to solve real-world problems, to enhance student's perceptions about STEM, and to generate excitement for world-class, high-tech jobs in the local area.

This program will be available to qualified students and teachers at no cost to them and serve as the pilot program for the Central Florida region.

The Osceola County SEMI HTU Program is funded by the Florida High Tech Corridor Council and the Osceola County Education Foundation. Additional hosts and sponsors making this event possible also include the Osceola School District's Career and Technical Education Department, IMEC, Mercury Marine, NeoCity/Osceola County Government, and the University of Central Florida. SEMI Foundation is part of SEMI, the global industry association serving the manufacturing supply chain for the micro- and nano-electronics industries. For more information, visit www.SEMI.org.

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El Distrito Escolar del Condado Osceola colabora con BRIDG en el programa de Escuela Superior para el Desarrollo de Fuerza Laboral de SEMI High Tech University

Debido a que el Distrito Escolar de Osceola sirve como impulsor clave para el desarrollo económico diverso en el área central de Florida, la Junta Escolar de Osceola y la superintendente Dra. Debra Pace han ampliado en gran medida el programa de estudios *STEM* (Ciencias, Tecnología, Ingeniería y Matemáticas) que se enseña en las escuelas para que esté alineado directamente con las necesidades actuales y futuras de la fuerza laboral. La más reciente iniciativa *STEM* del distrito es *SEMI High Tech University (SEMI HTU)*, convirtiendo a Osceola en el primer distrito escolar de Florida en colaborar con la Fundación *SEMI* en su programa de exploración de carreras de alta tecnología el cual es reconocido internacionalmente. Dicho programa está dirigido a estudiantes de escuela superior y se llevará a cabo del 13 al 15 de junio de 2017.

Los estudiantes participantes tendrán la oportunidad de visitar *BRIDG*, anfitrión y patrocinador de *SEMI High Tech University*, para participar en talleres prácticos facilitados por el personal de tecnología de *BRIDG* y colaboradores de la industria, con el propósito de aprender acerca de diferentes vías que conducen de la escuela a la manufactura avanzada y a carreras tecnológicas en áreas tales como sensores avanzados, óptica y fotónica. Además del programa para estudiantes, se llevará a cabo un programa para maestros del 7 al 8 de junio para conectar la experiencia del salón de clases a carreras profesionales en tecnología para educadores. Estos estudiantes y maestros investigarán cómo las soluciones de alta tecnología *STEM* son utilizadas para resolver problemas del mundo real, para aumentar la percepción de los estudiantes sobre *STEM* y para generar entusiasmo por empleos de alta tecnología en el área local.

Este programa estará disponible libre de costo para estudiantes y maestros que cualifiquen y servirá como programa piloto para el área central de Florida.

El Programa *SEMI HTU* del condado de Osceola está financiado por *Florida High Tech Corridor Council* y *Osceola County Education Foundation*. Anfitriones y patrocinadores adicionales que hacen posible este evento incluyen el Departamento de Carreras y Educación Técnica, *IMEC*, *Mercury Marine*, *NeoCity/Gobierno* del condado Osceola y *University of Central Florida*. *SEMI Foundation* es parte de *SEMI*, la asociación de industria global que sirve a la cadena de suplidores de manufactura para las industrias de microelectrónica y nanotecnología. Para más información visite www.SEMI.org.

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About BRIDG

BRIDG is an industry-led consortium for advanced sensors, optics and photonics and other advanced manufacturing devices, focusing on the development of innovative manufacturable processes, materials and equipment for next-generation smart sensors and other future high-tech products. Supported by Osceola County, the University of Central Florida and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, BRIDG facilitates the connection between innovation and industry and "bridges" the innovation development gap that makes commercialization possible. BRIDG is initially targeting smart sensors and imagers technology transforming the way humans interact with the world every day. Learn more at www.GoBRIDG.com.

About SEMI Foundation

The mission of the SEMI Foundation is to support education and career awareness in the field of high-technology. SEMI Foundation is committed to helping high school students gain a better understanding of how Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are used to solve “real world” problems. SEMI Foundation fosters a renewed commitment to explore a future in the technology industry. Since 2001, its HTU program has reached over 6,900 students in 12 states and nine countries. Learn more at www.semifoundation.org.