

Training providers responding to job market's needs

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A changing business environment with new employment needs has training providers adjusting to the demands of the marketplace.

The result is the addition of new opportunities for job seekers to add skills or prepare themselves for different occupations.

Coming July 9 is a training program for information technology professionals who want to develop skills with ASP.NET, the application framework becoming the industry standard for web development.

The 15-week course, taught at Tallahassee Community College's Center for Workforce Development, is for IT professionals with at least one year of recent programming experience. It is a response to the job market and in particular, a profession where people are needed — as of early May, the website EmployFlorida.com listed at least 309 jobs available in this field in the Tallahassee area.

It's also an example of how providers of training are on the lookout for professions and industries that are growing. As part of tracking the market for workers needed, TCC's Division of Workforce Development checks employment want-ads every two weeks for patterns or particular vacancies that exist.

In the case of web development using ASP.NET, "We saw that there was a huge need and we wanted to help our area employers meet that need," said Kimberly Moore, TCC's vice president for workforce development.

In similar fashion, TCC is rolling out a project management track that has application in numerous fields. "It's a hot topic," said Amy Combs, IT training coordinator, especially in work settings where older managers may be retiring and taking that expertise with them.

"People coming into these positions are going to need those skills in order to function in those project management roles," she added.

At Keiser University, programs for health careers remain a top priority because the profession continues to need more personnel.

"From the very beginning, we've always been focused on high-tech, high-demand areas and baccalaureate degree production," said Belinda Keiser, the university's vice chancellor of community relations and student advancement.

Keiser has added graduate studies, including Ph.D. programs in educational leadership, instructional design and technology and in psychology. "But by and large, our students are the working adults that really come back to school because they need something that is very much in demand," Keiser said.

Those areas include nursing, radiologic technology, occupational therapy, criminal justice and IT.

From the point of view of employers, it is such talent that is leading companies to pick Florida and the

Tallahassee area.

“When I look at the industries that are making an impact on Florida, they are attracted to Florida because of what we like to call the talent supply chain,” said Keiser, who serves on the board of Enterprise Florida, the state’s economic development partnership.