Learn how to earn your spot in Florida's high-tech fast lane.

lorida is one of the biggest innovation hubs in America, generating opportunities that have local and global impact on manufacturing and production industries. If you are intrigued by technology, pursuing a career in manufacturing might be your ticket to success.

Zach Lance, 24, is a Brevard Community College student pursuing an associate's degree to take advantage of great career opportunities in modern manufacturing. Redesigning and remaking parts out of composite materials for lunar precursor missions at NASA makes "every part of every day exciting," Zach says.

Minimizing waste, reducing energy use and recycling are processes that are part of everyday production activities at NASA. A large part of Zach's job involves integrating aspects of modern manufacturing, including sustainable "lean" and "green" concepts. And the high-tech composite materials Zach works with are an essential part of modern manufacturing in aerospace, automotive, sports and marine industries. In fact, demand for trained technicians/engineers with this knowledge and these skills is at an all-time high.

Florida is home to over 14,000 manufacturers that employ nearly 355,000 people with an average annual salary of \$48,000.

"Being a part of a group of engineers and technicians, finding the best solution to a problem, and knowing I have the appropriate skill set to do so is very fulfilling," Zach says. The mathematics, science and engineering technology classes that he has taken have given Zach a great background and practical hands-on experience for what he does every day on the job.

In today's manufacturing world, global partnerships are key to optimal development and production. Zach loves the opportunity to work on lunar rovers with NASA's international partners like Canada, Germany and China. With his work experience and community college education, Zach dreams of attending an engineering college and feels well prepared to meet future challenges.

Check out these websites to learn more about Florida manufacturing careers, companies and educational opportunities.







www. fl-ate.org









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