



# PRESS RELEASE

## **PHCC Provides Job Training for Youthful Offenders**

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Pasco-Hernando Community College is now in its third year of providing hands-on web design technology training to female youthful offenders prior to their release from Hernando County Correctional Institution. The program is funded through a contract with the Florida Department of Corrections.

Since its inception in 2002, nearly 300 inmates have completed the 120-hour program, which focuses on skills needed to gain entry-level employment in the field of web design. In addition to the technical, computer-based training, the program includes job search and interview skills, professionalism, tips for dressing for success, and communication.

The students in the program have responded very positively. On the program evaluation form, one of the students wrote, "I felt like I was really in college. The program started with computer basics and even included how to go on job interviews. There isn't anything else that could make this class any better!"

The instructor, Lou Labetti, owns and operates an internet services and communications business in Spring Hill, FL. He brings a wealth of computer technology education and experience to the classroom, and the students respond well to his structured yet creative approach. One student summed up the most common sentiment about Labetti when she said, "Mr. Labetti is always more than willing to help out with answering questions and preparing us for tests. I look forward to attending this class every day!"

The program is administered through PHCC's Department of Professional Development and Corporate Training. Due to its success, PHCC has been awarded a three-year contract to continue the training through 2008.

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