

**SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Press Release**

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**Re: Industry Certification**

Exciting news! At a time when workforce demands for technical skills and industry verification are at an all-time high, Sumter County Schools has increased the number of students earning industry-relevant credentials by 78%!

The high schools in Sumter County offer numerous career and technical programs to students, and, within those programs, students have the opportunity to sit for credentials recognized by business and industry locally, regionally, or nationally.

Sumter County Schools graduated 22 high school students armed with Certified Nursing Assistant licenses. Three students graduated with Phlebotomy credentials from the National Healthcareer Association, and 35 left high school as Certified Medical Administrative Assistants. These graduates were ready to enter the workforce as entry level healthcare workers. In addition to valuable healthcare credentials, the 22 C.N.A. students also left high school having completed 75 hours of the state-approved Home Health Aide curriculum.

A highly versatile credential, the Microsoft Office Specialist certification requires students to take three different Microsoft Office product exams. Fifteen (15) students completed the Administrative Office Specialist program, earned the MOS credential, and graduated prepared for a variety of entry-level office positions. Most students who earned this credential passed the Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook exams. Several also passed the Microsoft Excel exam. This MOS credential is also considered a gold standard credential, which means that it can translate into free college credit at Florida state colleges that offer aligned programs.

Florida greatly values the agricultural industry and what it brings to the economy. Students in the agriculture academies at two high schools have the opportunity to take certification exams in the areas of agritechnology and agricultural biotechnology. Fifteen students earned industry credentials in these two areas in 2014-15. In 2015-16, new credentials offered in the

agriculture academies will include animal science certification and unmanned aircraft safety certification.

The Certified Food Protection Manager certification administered by the Florida Restaurant Association is a valued credential in the hospitality industry. Sumter County Schools produced 18 students with the CFPM credential. This rigorous exam requires students to show mastery of food safety concepts that would make a college biology student quiver!

A highly popular credential in the district schools in 2014-15 was the Adobe Certified Associate. Students took tests on products including Photoshop, Flash, Dreamweaver, InDesign, and Illustrator. Forty three Adobe Certified Associate credentials were awarded in the various products with some students earning multiple credentials.

Sumter County schools are preparing students for college and careers with the rigorous knowledge and skills necessary for success!

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