

Race-to-the-Top Grant

Career and Technical Education is benefitting from the Race-to-the-Top Grant that was awarded to Charlotte County Public Schools. Over \$109,000 has been earmarked for a new STEM program at Charlotte High School (CHS).

Through this five-year grant, a new Plant Biotechnology program is being added to the existing Charlotte High School curriculum. There has been an Agriculture program at CHS for over 30 years offering a full array of classes in Agriscience, Livestock, Poultry, Sales and Service, and Horticulture. The new biotechnology program will combine core science projects with hands-on agriculture projects in a science lab and greenhouse setting.

In 2011-12 the agriculture program will open as a CAPE Career Academy with several pathways for the students. Once a student completes the basic Agriculture Foundations class, they may opt to enter Plant Biotechnology, Livestock, Sales and Service, or Veterinarian Assisting as a career pathway.

Each pathway leads to different industry certifications, Florida Bright Futures, college articulation, the military, or careers in agritechnology.

Interested students should see their Career Specialist today for information on the Academy of Agriculture at CHS.

