

ACCS
INNOVATION
CENTER

PULSE CHECK



May 2025

42,000+

ENROLLED



Skills for
Success

>>> MAY PILOT LAB HIGHLIGHTS



Concrete Mixer Truck Driver

Chattahoochee Valley Community College and **Jefferson State Community College** teamed up in Birmingham to host the second pilot of the **Concrete Mixer Truck Driver** course at the request of the Alabama Concrete Industries Association—a testament to the power of partnership. Six students participated—four with prior experience and two new to the field—under the expert guidance of Senteal McNeil from Heidelberg Materials. Kirkpatrick

Concrete generously provided the mixer truck, and the event was attended by John Sorrell, Executive Director of the Alabama Concrete Industries Association, alongside four Kirkpatrick Concrete team members. This successful collaboration shows what we can achieve when colleges unite to meet industry needs.

Lawson State Community College kicked off its 4-week Skills for Success **Biotechnician** course with a safety-focused lab: students mastered PPE protocols and learned decontamination, disinfection, and sterilization techniques. By course end, they'll have the technical skills and industry know-how to launch a biotechnology career. We can't wait to see their progress!



Biotechnician



May 2025

>>> MAY PILOT LAB HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

**Propane Technician**

Northeast Alabama Community College successfully piloted the first Skills for Success **Propane Technician** course. Participants learned how to identify propane systems, install and maintain propane piping and appliances, apply safety procedures, and perform pipe sizing calculations. Special thanks to instructor Lenn Hancock and the team at Northeast for leading the way in bringing this new training opportunity to life. With the first pilot complete, the course is one step closer to becoming available statewide.

Morgan County Career Center students joined **Calhoun Community College** for the second Skills for Success **Barista** pilot. In this hands-on lab, they mastered espresso techniques, latte art, customer service, and inventory management—gaining real-world skills in a booming industry. With two successful pilots complete, the course will launch statewide soon!

**Barista****Nursery Landscape Worker**

The second pilot of the Skills for Success **Nursery Landscape Worker** course is in full swing at **Wallace State Community College**! This week, Wallace State's Jason Bynum led students from Royal Pines as they mastered watering, fertilizing, and hydration checks. Hands-on sessions continue next Tuesday and Thursday—stay tuned for more updates from this growing program!

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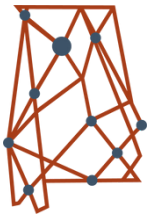


>>> Watch the 2025 SkillsUSA Heavy Equipment Operator Competition Video!

The recap video of the inaugural Alabama SkillsUSA Heavy Equipment Operation Competition at Bishop State in Mobile is now live! Watch students put their Skills for Success training to work—testing both knowledge and on-machine skills—and see why we're already gearing up for 2026. If your college doesn't have a SkillsUSA chapter yet, start one now so your students can compete.

For chapter startup and next year's competition details, contact Matt Heaton at Matt.Heaton@accs.edu

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



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>>> INDUSTRY CONNECTION

Schoel Engineering is partnering with the ACCS Innovation Center to support Skills for Success completers through career prep interviews. Every student who finishes the Skills for Success **Land Survey Technician** course will have the opportunity to participate in a one-on-one interview with the Schoel team. This partnership connects education and industry in a meaningful way, providing students with valuable career guidance, resume support, and insights into the land surveying field. We're excited about the potential this collaboration has to help students take the next step in their careers and build a stronger workforce across Alabama.



LOOKING FOR REAL INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE?

→ Schoel is offering career prep interviews to help Skills for Success Land Survey Technician course completers gain confidence and explore career opportunities.

Industry Connections Career Insights Potential Hiring Opportunities

Register today!





>>> COLLEGE + BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP



Bishop State Community College partnered with **Spire Energy Inc.** to provide CDL training through Skills for Success. Two employees, Dylan Brasher and Brandon Sylvester, completed the training as part of Spire's investment in supporting workforce development and helping their team grow professionally. This partnership highlights how Alabama companies are working with their local community colleges to access rapid, no-cost training opportunities.



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Skills for Success now has **SEVEN** courses offered in Spanish! (Theory Only)

Available Courses

Any community college can offer these courses.

- CDL A
- CDL A Theory Only
- CDL B
- CDL B Theory Only
- CDL B Passenger School Bus
- CDL B Passenger School Bus Theory Only
- CDL B + Passenger Theory Only
- CDL B + Passenger
- Passenger + School Bus
- Passenger Endorsement
- Passenger Theory Only
- School Bus Endorsement
- School Bus Theory Only
- CDL Behind the Wheel Only
- Hazmat Endorsement
- Excavator Operator
- Skid Steer Operator
- Skid Steer Operator - Spanish
- Bulldozer Operator

- Bulldozer - Spanish
- Asphalt Roller Operator
- Asphalt Roller Operator - Spanish
- Fiber Optics Tech and Installer
- Fiber Optics Tech and Installer - Spanish
- Manufactured Home Installer Helper
- Food & Beverage
- Food & Beverage - Spanish
- Hotel Operations
- Hotel Operations - Spanish
- Retail Meat Cutter
- Retail Meat Cutter - Spanish
- Mental Health Worker
- Carpentry Helper
- Electrical Helper
- Land Survey Technician
- Community Health Worker
- Customer Service
- Ambulance Operator/EVOC

Customized Training Courses

These courses are specialized workforce training programs developed at the request of an ACCS division, partner, or stakeholder to address specific industry or organizational needs.

Available Courses:

- Dual Enrollment Orientation
- FAME Mentorship

In-Development Courses:

- Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) x 10
- Construction Administration Excellence
- ReConnect

Courses In-Development

These courses are still in a phase of development, whether that be the development of a task force, filming, or pilot phase.

- *Flooring Installation Technician
- *Barista
- *Veterinary Assistant
- *Motor Grader Operator
- *Forklift Operator
- *Concrete Mixer Truck Driver
- *Plumbing Assistant
- *Nursery Landscape Worker
- *Machine Operator
- *Nursing Support Technician (NST)
- *Biotechnician
- *Water Treatment Operator Grade 2
- *Propane Technician
- *Asphalt Lab Technician
- Paver Operator
- Operator Tech Automotive
- Drone Operator
- Screed Operator
- Roof Framing
- Master the Customer Experience
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Operator

*pilot phase

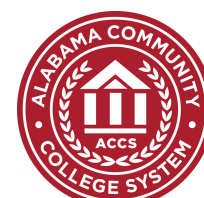
Are you interested in taking a Skills for Success course? Are you an employer looking to offer training to your workforce? Or are you a partner wanting to promote these valuable programs?

Submit your interest today and let's work together to build a stronger workforce!

TrainForAlabama.com



Available Trainings



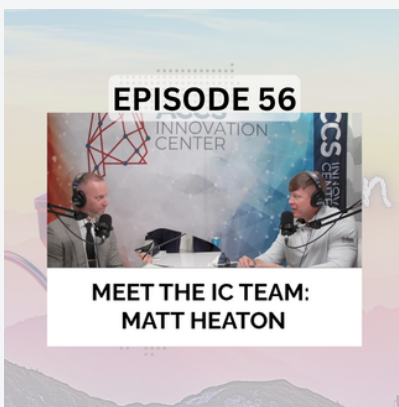
MAY INNOVATION UNPLUGGED RECAP

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**Episode 55**

Meet The IC Team: John Mullins, Rachael Lusco & Destiny Smith

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**Episode 56**

Meet The IC Team: Matt Heaton

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**Episode 57**

Career Ready: Workforce Training for Alabama Students
Tony May, Work-Based Learning Specialist

Alabama State Department of Education

**Episode 58**

Landscape Learning: Growing Alabama's Nursery and Landscape Workforce with Russell Wood, Executive Director of the Alabama Nursery Landscape Association

