

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte Technical College Launches Tech Tide Market to Support SkillsUSA Students and Local Small Businesses

Port Charlotte, Fla. — Tuesday, July 21, 2026 - Charlotte Technical College is starting a new vendor market on its campus. This event hopes to bring in 100 vendors, food trucks, hands-on activities, and more. The idea came from numerous student and instructor discussions on how to assist in sending students to competitions within their technical field through SkillsUSA.

Just last year, seven students from Charlotte Technical College took home gold medals at the State SkillsUSA Competitions and were invited to the National Competition in Georgia. Three students returned home with silver medals, and all came home with memories that will last a lifetime. Now, some of those students are alumni of Charlotte Technical College and want to find a way to build funding for their chapter.

Miranda Andrade and Josue Cruz, IT students, assisted in creating the plans, mapping, and logistics for the event. Judy Wilke and Kylee Catchings, Digital Design graduates and current IT students, assisted with design elements and advertisements. Megan Hornstein, IT Instructor and SkillsUSA Advisor, met with the administration team for approval, and the Tech Tide Market was born.

"We are lucky to say that Mrs. Gulsby is our Director. She is always willing to meet with staff and students about ideas, especially when it supports students in their technical growth," stated Mrs. Hornstein.

The Tech Tide Market is currently looking for more vendors to widen the range of products available to the public. Whether you are a seasoned vendor or just starting out, this is an opportunity to showcase your business while supporting student success. Vendors interested in participating are encouraged to complete the application at: <https://forms.gle/cVwyvBtgmP8tz7WPA>.

The Tech Tide Market will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on October 10, November 7, December 5, January 16, and February 6 at Charlotte Technical College, 18150 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte. Community members are invited to experience this exciting event while supporting local small businesses and the achievements of students advancing their technical skills.

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Media Inquires

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