



ICUF

Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida

FLORIDA'S INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HELP MEET FLORIDA'S ENGINEERING WORKFORCE NEEDS

Innovative microsimulation shows state leaders how a rising demand is widening Florida's engineering workforce gap, and how ICUF schools are filling critical labor shortages.

Florida's engineering workforce faces structural challenges:

- Career changes
- Rising demand across infrastructure, aerospace and manufacturing industries
- Increased engineer retirements

Demand is growing faster than Florida's higher education system can supply.

From 2026 to 2034, 50,114 engineering jobs are projected to open, rising from 4,849 a year in 2026 to 6,679 a year in 2034. Graduates from Florida's nonprofit, higher education institutions are a major part of Florida's engineering pipeline.

50,114

**PROJECTED ENGINEERING
POSITIONS OPENING
FROM 2026-2034**

529%

**LABOR GAP GROWTH BY
2034 WITHOUT NEW
INVESTMENT**

1 IN 5

**VACANCIES FILLED BY
ICUF GRADUATES**

Closing the gap will take investment. Florida's independent colleges and universities have the capacity and flexibility to offer more degrees and help close Florida's projected engineering workforce gap.

The Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) grant helps Florida residents pay for college tuition, with \$3,500 in assistance each year to attend independent, nonprofit colleges and universities. This program helps students access higher education and incentivizes Floridians to pursue higher education in Florida, increasing the likelihood they will join Florida's workforce.

Florida's ICUF Labor Market Gap Analysis was developed by REC Group using a first-of-its-kind methodology that quantifies how ICUF graduates fill critical workforce shortages in Florida.

\$3,500

**ANNUAL STUDENT VOUCHER
FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS**

43,000

**FLORIDA RESIDENTS GAIN ACCESS
TO HIGHER EDUCATION EACH YEAR**

PRIVATE COLLEGES, PUBLIC GOOD.

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