State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) professors are highly qualified professionals who have proven themselves both in their fields and classrooms. Their expertise benefits students who gain hands-on experience and a career edge.

Adrienne Gould-Choquette oversees SCF’s Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.S.) in Energy Technology Management Program and spearheaded the redesign of the Associate in Science (A.S.) in Construction Management Technology and A.S. in Engineering Technology degree programs that emphasize sustainability and alternative energy.

Committed to exposing students to the most cutting-edge resources, Gould-Choquette trains students on industry-standard equipment and technology, giving them valuable skills that place them at the forefront of emerging technologies.

With FL-ATE, a statewide consortium for engineering technology, she served on a team of educators from Florida and Spain to develop the curriculum for a study-abroad program. This summer, she joined her student, Andrew Sink — who was selected as one of eight engineering technology students in Florida — in studying alternative energy and energy efficiency at a partner school in Spain.

Gould-Choquette is working on an e-textbook, “Sustainable Solutions for a Bright Future,” and is enrolled in a graduate program in sustainability at Harvard University.

“I enjoy finding new approaches to help my students grasp important concepts that are critical to their success. My students’ aha moments are the most rewarding part of teaching,” she said.

Since joining SCF as a natural sciences assistant professor in 2008, Dr. Matthew Keirle has been dedicated to developing a high level of rigor in the curriculum, engaging students in science and giving them the resources to succeed.

As course coordinator of Fundamentals of Biology II, he overhauled labs, updated performance standards and developed the course, adding a new lab manual and a popular hands-on Diversity and Ecology Lab at Mote Marine Aquarium in Sarasota.

“If I were wealthy enough that I didn’t need money, I wouldn’t care whether they even paid me to teach. I love it that much,” he said.

Keirle played a pivotal role in helping SCF secure a prestigious $187,084 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Advanced Technological Education (NSF-ATE) Program to fund the Biotechnology Alliance for Suncoast Biology Educators pilot project. The innovative program integrates high school teacher training with the use of sophisticated biotechnology tools in classrooms to increase high school students’ interest in and preparation for 21st century careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Keirle excels in effecting quality science learning in a diverse student population at SCF, and he can’t imagine a better place to pursue his life’s work of advocating quality science teaching and learning.

“What’s made the time at SCF enjoyable is that people here are willing to explore new ideas. There’s nothing more rewarding than feeling that you can make a difference,” Keirle said.

Dr. Matthew Keirle, natural science

Before joining the SCF faculty, Dr. Keri Hockett, SCF Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) professor, dedicated more than 30 years to local health care, including serving as director of education, clinical practice and research development at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. At SCF she continues making her mark in a vocation that relies on highly skilled professionals to provide a strong quality of life for the community.

She enjoys training and challenging students at the bachelor’s level because the students, as practicing nurses, relate to her medical profession background. In turn, Hockett’s drive to succeed encourages and inspires students to advance their education. Students from SCF’s first B.S.N. cohort have enrolled in master’s degree and doctoral programs at prestigious institutions including Duke University, Florida State University and University of Central Florida.

“SCF is a nurturing environment with professors who are exceptional thinkers, scholars and masters of their crafts,” Hockett said. “No one is focused on a personal agenda. It’s always about the student. They love to teach here, and that’s what I love, too.”

Dr. Keri Hockett, nursing