In spring 2011, when graduates of State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota’s (SCF) first baccalaureate degree program, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.), walk the stage to receive their diplomas, they will represent a significant milestone in SCF’s history.

When the B.S.N. program, started in response to the community’s needs, was approved in 2009 by the State Board of Education, SCF had celebrated a storied nursing program history dating back to 1959 when the College began an Associate in Science (A.S.) nursing program with a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

Today, both associate- and bachelor-level nursing students train at all three SCF campuses in Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch and Venice, but the latest buzz is the recently opened 42,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Medical Technology & Simulation Center (MTSC) at SCF Lakewood Ranch. Here, students can practice clinical skills in the MTSC’s controlled risk-free simulated hospital environment featuring sophisticated adult and infant simulation technology, electronic medical records, drug recognition system and medication-dispensing device.

Other health programs at SCF include emergency medical services, occupational therapy assistant, physical therapist assistant, radiography and dental hygiene. All health professions benefit from close collaboration with local health care practitioners. Each year, local dentists support SCF’s Dental Hygiene Program by giving scholarships to students. When the program began, local dentists helped convince the Legislature to fund a new dental hygiene facility and housed student clinicals in their offices until the Dental Hygiene Clinic opened at SCF Bradenton in 2000.

Other associate-degree programs are offered in the following fields: business, computer science, construction management technology, criminal justice, education, engineering technology, fire science, graphic and digital media, and legal assisting. A new A.S. in biotechnology also is being developed to provide a skilled workforce for biotech firms in the area.

In expanding its mission beyond highly regarded associate-level programs, SCF continues to add workforce baccalaureate degrees developed in direct response to the community’s needs. On tap to start in 2011 are a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees in Energy Technology Management, Health Services Administration, Homeland Security and Public Safety Administration.

The MTSC, SCF’s first building designed and constructed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards, serves dual purposes. A 1,600-square-foot chiller plant that uses Thermal Energy Storage system to cool the campus during peak times to conserve energy will pull double duty as a learning lab for Energy Technology Management Program students.

SCF is pursuing additional workforce baccalaureate degrees that, if approved by the State Board of Education, are expected to start in 2012:

- B.S. in Education
- Secondary/Middle School Math
- Secondary/Middle School Science
- Elementary with Integrated Math and Science
- B.A.S. Marine Industry Management
- B.A.S. Technology Management
- B.A.S. Athletic Training
- B.A.S. International Business and Trade

SCF also will request to add gerontology and nutrition as areas of concentration in Health Services Administration program previously approved by the State Board of Education.

“For 53 years we have made a college education accessible to tens of thousands of students. Now we are expanding to give students even more opportunities to live, work and retire in our community,” said SCF President Dr. Lars A. Hafner.

A Legacy of Excellence, A Future of Innovation.