

LSSC Offering New Program In the Spring

Lake Sumter State College in Leesburg just received approval to offer industrial management technology.

By **ETHAN PALMER**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

LEESBURG

Area students soon will have additional options to continue course work through a new industrial management technology program at nearby Lake-Sumter State College.

Last week, LSSC, which has a campus in Leesburg, received accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges to offer a new IMT program.

The program, which will be offered as part of the spring 2018 semester, will join a list of eight other associate programs currently offered by the state college including business administration, nursing, criminal justice and more.

Students will be able to transfer credits already gained at a technical school, like nearby Lake Technical College in Eustis, to enter the IMT program.

Upon completion of the IMT degree, students can continue their enrollment at LSSC in the Organizational Management bachelor's degree program, where they will learn leadership, communication and management skills.

The program is expected to

help further boost the number of professionals employed in the manufacturing industry.

Accreditation couldn't have come at a better time considering October is Manufacturing Month for Lake County, meaning the county is spotlighting local manufacturing companies, said Robert Chandler, executive director of Lake County's Agency for Economic Prosperity.

"Lake County has a long and rich manufacturing heritage," he said. "The manufacturing sector will most definitely continue to play a critical role in Lake County's ongoing goal to diversify the local economy."

Diane Culpepper, executive director of Lake Tech, said the partnership will open new doors for students seeking further instruction.

Those enrolled at Lake Tech can receive a license or certification in more than 28 career fields and any Lake Tech program with more than 900 clock hours are eligible for transfer to the IMT degree at LSSC.

"We are thrilled about this opportunity for Lake Tech graduates to articulate into this new degree," Culpepper said. "Students will now have the ability to work toward an (Associate of Science) degree and a (Bachelor of Applied Science) degree right here in Lake County."

Ethan Palmer is a staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. He can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 9013, or ethan.palmer@thevillagesmedia.com.