



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kevin Green speaks at Avalon Center Dedication

ORLANDO, FL – Surface Interval Principal Kevin B. Green had the honor of speaking at the dedication of the new Avalon Center for Technical Excellence, the newest Career and Technical Center in the Orange County School District.

The Avalon Center for Technical Excellence is the first purpose-built Career and Technical Education Center build by Orange County Public Schools in twenty-six years. Operating as a branch campus of Winter Park Tech, the Avalon Center will bring high quality vocational training to East Orange County.

Sharing the stage with Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Ron Blocker, School Board member Daryl Flynn, County Commissioner Mildred Fernandez, and others, Green spoke on the importance of community involvement in vocational education. Kevin serves as the Chairman of Winter Park Tech's School Advisory Committee, and also was honored to speak at the groundbreaking of this Center, just one year ago. Kevin's comments can be seen on Page Two of this release.

Surface Interval Training features training programs from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), Emergency First Response, Divers Alert Network, Medic First Aid International, and the American Red Cross. Courses available include Open Water Diver all the way through Assistant Instructor, as well as First Aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), Care for Children, Emergency Oxygen, and First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life. Classes are available on a schedule or can be custom scheduled as needed. In addition to quality training, Surface Interval will offer international and domestic dive travel services in the coming months.

Information on classes, training agencies, and travel are available at:
WWW.SURFACEINTERVALTRAINING.COM.

Surface Interval Training is proud to be a member of DEMA, the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association.

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Kevin B. Green
Dedication of Avalon Center for Technical Excellence
January 10th 2008
Comments on Community Involvement in Vocational Education

Good Morning.

It's a pleasure to be standing here in front of a completed Technical Center today. What you see behind me is a place where the dreams of East Orange County will come true; a place where our community will come to learn and thrive; a place where opportunities will become experience and lives will change.

This new technical education center is an investment in the continued vitality of our community. And in challenging economic times, our communities turn to education for new training, better opportunities, and chances at success. Without the support of community partners like the Avalon Park Group, this building never would have come to fruition, and without the support of the community it would be an empty edifice. This is why today, we come here to breathe life into a new home for technical excellence. We come here to affirm the value that education brings to our businesses, our friends and our families.

Our technical centers have a long history of collaboration with local business and industry. By reaching out to local businesses, workforce education has been able to place itself ahead of local needs, meeting those needs faster and with higher quality than many other institutions. And in return, local businesses have invested their time, efforts and considerable talents in our Orange County Technical Centers by serving on advisory committees, through Teach-In events, and through every day volunteerism. The partnership between business and workforce education in Orange County has been strong, and I am confident that it will be stronger than ever here at the Avalon Center for Technical Excellence.

When we stood here one year ago, East Orange County looked to the future. In the distance, we saw a new biomedical research park, we saw a new medical school for the University of Central Florida, we looked to our thriving High Tech Corridor, and saw the continued success of the Central Florida Research Park. And as a community, we broke ground on a place where the future of vocational education would be as bright as the future of our home.

The continued economic development of our community and our county relies heavily on our ability to provide a trained, educated workforce. And moving forward, as the High Tech Corridor expands, the need for trained workers will continue. The availability of technical education allows us to fill new jobs with residents who have a stake in the success of their own community. And our community will continue to grow and flourish.

Today, and in the future, when students walk through these doors, they are not just taking ownership of their own lives; they take ownership of the future of Orange County. They are empowered to make a difference here at home, and leave these halls as the future leaders of our community. As our people grow and better themselves, our community becomes a better place to live and work; Our businesses grow, and our economy thrives. And perhaps it is a little idealistic, but I like to think that our future starts here, today.

The philosopher David Hume said "Learning has been a great loser by being shut up in colleges and cells and secluded from the world and good company." I believe that he might have been on to something. So I challenge you today to support this center generously with your time, your energy, your businesses....and your good company. Education is a lifelong pursuit. Join the pursuit here as we bring high quality technical and vocational education within easy reach of our residents and friends.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement.