



**Putnam County Schools Receives \$100,000 Gift to Help Launch Academy of Building Technologies**  
*Grant from the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Fund at The Community Foundation is the largest in the Fund's history*

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – February 3, 2022 -- The need has never been more critical for workers in the building trades—plumbing, electrical, masonry, HVAC and carpentry. To help answer that demand, the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has made a \$100,000 grant to Putnam County School's Academy of Building Technologies to help launch the program.

"Frank was committed to Putnam County students having more educational opportunities, and we are delighted that our largest grant to date will support the Academy of Building Technologies," said Joyce Oliver, Frank's widow, and a member of the Fund's Advisory Committee. "This kind of career training will benefit not only individual students whose career potential will increase, but our entire community as we are able to retain these graduates with sustainable employment opportunities."

The need for a program such as this has been highlighted in recent years in discussions between the business community and the Putnam County School District. There are no other Building Construction programs being taught in Putnam County schools. The Academy of Building Technology will be located at Interlachen High School, and the \$100,000 grant from the Fund will go toward needed facility improvements to make it a fully functioning workshop, and to help with hiring an educator.

Putnam County School Superintendent Dr. Rick Surrency shared, "We are grateful for our partnership with The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida through the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Fund to start our Building Construction Technologies Career Pathway. This significant contribution, along with other funding sources, will ensure that we can offer this exciting program to our students beginning in the 2022-23 school year."

The Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Fund has made previous grants to support Career and Technical Education in Putnam County Schools, and Renee Hough, Director of Career and Technical Education for the Putnam County School District, welcomes this new phase of the partnership.

"We are excited to build the long-awaited Building Construction Technology program to help our students develop the necessary skills to be successful in various construction trades that are in demand," she said, noting that students who complete the program will receive industry certifications through NCCER (the National Center for Construction Education and Research).

Previous grants from the Fund that went toward Career and Technical Education in Putnam County include:

- \$10,000 in 2016 to help Price Middle School renovate a greenhouse and assist students with CTE certification exams
- \$10,000 in 2017 to help build a greenhouse on site for Putnam Academy of Arts and Sciences
- \$9,000 in 2018 to help purchase equipment for Advanced Manufacturing Technology and Welding Programs at both Palatka and Interlachen High Schools.
- \$20,000 in 2019 to purchase new welding machines in support of the students at both Interlachen and Palatka High Schools



**About Frank V. Oliver, Jr.**

A longtime Palatka businessman and quiet philanthropist, Mr. Oliver established a number of charitable giving vehicles when he died in 2010, including designated endowments for several beloved organizations. But his vision also created a more flexible field of interest fund for Putnam County, so that other deserving programs that might need assistance in the future would benefit.

**About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida**

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida ([www.jaxcf.org](http://www.jaxcf.org)), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Created in 1964, the Foundation has assets of more than \$600 million and has made approximately \$640 million in grants since inception.

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