MAINTENANCE

Voc-tech school starts maintenance course

WINTERGARDEN, Fla. — With more than 1000 golf courses located in the state, Florida educators have realized that golf course maintenance skills can help high school students find jobs, and perhaps careers, after graduation.

Now the first vocational-technical school to offer turfgrass operations courses to Florida high school students plans to gear those courses to adults already working in the field.

Mike Armbruster, instructor of turfgrass operations courses at Westside Vocational Technical Center, said the school has offered the courses to high school students for the past four years. Seventy percent of the graduates go on to find jobs in the field, Armbruster said.

While adults can enroll in the courses offered to younger students, Armbruster said most classes are held during the day, making it difficult for those already holding down day jobs to attend.

Still, Armbruster noted, many golf course workers would benefit from adding additional skills.

"We’re not trying to train superintendents here. We’re trying to train people who work below superintendents," Armbruster said.

"We’re looking to train good employees." Armbruster said people who take the course get on-the-job training during the day, working out a schedule with their employers to ensure varied experience through the work day.

Washington supers scramble vs winter kill

A golfer checks a lie on a Spokane course green which is mostly dirt.

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GOLF COURSE NEWS

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