ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this board is Gibbs High School – Business, Economics, Technology Academy (**BETA** Advisory Board)

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The Advisory Board functions in an advisory capacity to the Business, Economics, Technology Academy which is a program of the Florida Career and Professional Education Act (SB 1232) in section 1003.491, Florida Statues (F.S), aka CAPE.

The Advisory Board makes recommendations regarding the administration and expansion of programs, number of students, curriculum, promotion and budget. The Advisory Board also assists with raising funds, recruiting students and scholarships, and providing in kind contributions to the local Academy program.

An Advisory Board member understands the critical importance of their partnership to Academy staff and students who thrive with a strong degree of engagement from an Academy Advisory Board.

Vision: 100% Student Success
Mission: BETA students will thrive in a safe learning environment that provides opportunities for highest student achievement though the completion of chosen pathways, internships, and industry certifications leading to careers or post-secondary education.

ARTICLE III – OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Advisory Board is to work with the **BETA** Director, teachers, and students to establish and meet goals and support the following essential functions:
   1. **Expand awareness of BETA resulting in increased enrollment of students in the academy.**
   2. **Strengthen performance at FBLA competitions.**
   3. **Maximize student industry certifications.**
   4. **Maintain Center of Excellence.**
   5. **Make a measurable impact on the magnet students preparing them for college and the workplace.**
   6. **Incorporate soft skills that will be used throughout life.**

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION

The Advisory Board meets five times per year on the second Wednesday of each month, Additional meetings may be held to give counsel and solve specific problems dealing with fundraising, internship, curriculum and other matters related to the **BETA** Magnet Program.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership

   1. The members of the **BETA** Advisory Board shall be business representatives of the industries represented in the magnet program, the community at large and students:
   2. Members of the **BETA** Advisory Board shall receive no compensation for their services as **BETA** Advisory Board Members.
   3. The student representation on the board will be no less than two students and no more than eight-two per grade level.

4. Teachers will attend meetings to provide input and receive feedback for classroom implementation on "live work".
5. A business partner is one who commits to participate on the **BETA** Advisory Board.

Section 2. Individual Membership Expectations:

The selection of members shall be made without respect to race, color, creed, national origin, age, handicap, sexual orientation or gender. Members will assist with the following:

- Assisting win the identification of the competencies to be included in the career technical program
- Assist in identifying industry certifications consistent with certifications as identified by the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), the Department of Education (DOE), and the Office of CTAE
- Reviewing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes being taught in terms of the needs of employers
- Advising about the types of "live work" or production jobs that have sufficient educational value and should be incorporated into the program
- Providing OJT or internship opportunities where appropriate and available
- Interpreting new developments in the occupation
- Providing opportunities to upgrade the teacher's technical skills and knowledge through in-field experience
- Serving as or arranging for guest instructors or mentors
- Identifying current standards for new equipment
- Host industry visits and other field trips
- Serving as judges at Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) competition(s)
- Assisting with long-range program planning
- Assisting with the placement of students for work experience or part time employment

Provide service to the school and community with the following:

- Promoting career and technical programs
- Evaluating the instructional program
- Assisting with long-range planning

Section 3. Membership Year: Calendar year starting with August.

ARTICLE VI – RESPOSIBILITES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

1. Develop a five-year plan to promote program development and growth that leads to academic achievement and real-world experiences.
2. Review curriculum to incorporate current industry standards

ARTICLE VII -MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorum

A majority of the **BETA** Advisory Board members shall constitute a quorum for conducting Advisory Board business

Section 2. Minutes

The **BETA** Advisory Board Secretary of the board or designee shall record and distribute the approved minutes to all BETA Advisory Board Members prior to the following board meeting. The **BETA** Advisory

Board Chairperson and Director of the **BETA** Magnet Program will coordinate the meetings and develop the agenda. The **BETA** Advisory Board Secretary will also ensure that absent **BETA** Advisory Board Members receive material and minutes distributed at the board meetings.

ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS

Section 1. <u>Chairperson</u>

The Advisory Board shall consist of one chairperson. The Chairperson shall be elected by the members of the **BETA** Advisory Board Every two years.

ARTICLE IX – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. <u>Chairperson</u>

The Chairperson's duties shall be those usually pertaining to the office set forth in Robert's Rules of Order and such other duties as may be prescribed. Such duties include providing strategic guidance on all matters addressed by the **BETA** Advisory Board.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

New by-laws or revisions to existing by laws must be adopted by a majority vote.

The Importance of IT Certifications

It's not easy to get a job these days, even when there are jobs to be had. Case in point: A friend of mine is a nurse manager in the psych ward of a major hospital, and she hasn't been able to find anyone who's qualified to be her assistant nurse manager, But that's another story.

So, what does it take to become a viable candidate for a solid, well-paying job? In the IT industry, the answer is clear: **certification.**

That's the word from the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) and its recent "Employer Perception of IT Training and Certification" report, which is bases on an online survey of business and IT Executives who have mane a recent IT hiring decision, and an online survey of HR professionals.

Get Certified, Get Hired

According to CompTIA's research, 86 percent pf hiring managers indicate IT certification are a high or medium priority during the candidate evaluation process. The jobs are out there, but roughly eight in ten HR executives say it's challenging to find candidates with the right IT skill set. As companies struggle to fill positions, they're looking for validated skills, just like my nurse friend, IT managers can't afford to hire an employee who can't contribute right away.

That's where certifications comes in. Nearly two thirds of IT managers (64 percent) indicate that IT certifications have extremely high or high value in validating skills and expertise. Employers regards certified professionals as possessing a proven ability to understand new or complex technologies and engage in more insightful problem solving, both of which lead to higher productivity. And we all know that productivity is the name of the game no matter where you work.

Certification will be sought beyond 2011, of course. Eight in 10 HR Professional (80 percent) believe IT certifications will grow in usefulness and importance over the next two years, report CompTIA.

Mo' Money, Mo' Money, Mo' Money

Not only can IT certification give you a leg up in the job hunt, it can also translate to a higher salary. According to the 2010 IT Skills and Salary Report from Global Knowledge and TechRepublic, professionals who had earned an IT certification during the last five years earned an average of $5,242 more than their counterparts ($85, 628 vs. $80, 363).

But not all IT certifications are created equal. According to the report, the top five technical certifications by average salary are:

1. Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) - $99,928
2. Cisco Certified Design Associate (CCDA) = $93.953
3. VMware Certified Professional (VCP) - $91, 271
4. Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) - $89, 864
5. Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers (MCSE) - $,86,454

Don't underestimate the role of IT certification in the hiring process. If employers are relying on professional certifications to aid them in their hiring decisions, give'em what they want (and score a sweet salary in the process!).

-Robyn Tellefsen