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SouthShore Campus President Dr. Allen Witt speaks on the impact of higher education in Wimauma

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In any town where close to 40 percent of the population lives in poverty, there are always challenges.

But in Wimauma, a rural area of South Hillsborough County about 30 miles southeast of downtown Tampa, there is great potential for positive change and new opportunities, especially as greater attention is paid to the needs of residents and how they fit in with the larger community.

Dr. Allen Witt, President of the Hillsborough Community College (HCC) SouthShore Campus [2], discussed his views on the impact of higher education on Wimauma.

Witt says he wants to see the SouthShore campus train Wimauma students “so that by the time they are 21 years old, they have technical or vocational training so they can get a job in the economy.”

To this end, he sees several of the HCC SouthShore offerings as addressing the needs of the growing local economy, including emergency medical and nursing, childcare and criminal justice.

He says HCC is looking into expanding medical-related training and adding engineering professions. He is also petitioning Florida’s governor to construct a Career Transition Center in the SouthShore area.

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