



## Energy Career Academy Capstone Project

A Capstone project is a project that encapsulates all students have learned in a course of study. A highly successful model of a Capstone project being used in an Career Academy is at the Gulf Power Academy at the West Florida High School of Advanced Technology in Pensacola, Florida. The high school has generously made its Capstone project guidelines and time tables available to members and their partners of the Center for Energy Workforce Development at [www.wfhs.net/capstone.htm](http://www.wfhs.net/capstone.htm).

Below is how West Florida High School of Advanced Technology describes the Capstone project.

### *What is a Capstone project?*

The Technical Exhibition is a two-year project whereby students are provided an opportunity to exhibit mastery skills at a certain level of advanced competence. The Technical Exhibition also allows students to demonstrate that they are capable and disciplined as entrants into the real world of work or college and are concerned about their quality of work. The project consists of a research paper, a product and/or community service project, and an oral presentation.

### *When do students begin their Capstone project?*

The research paper component of the project begins in the 2nd semester of the junior year. The product/community service project begins in the fall of the senior year. The presentation takes place in the 4th quarter of the senior year. The presentation is evaluated by community professionals from the appropriate career field.

### *What are the advantages of Capstone projects?*

It provides students with the opportunity to show mastery of skills learned in career programs. It gives students contact with area business people who can become future employers and/or professional mentors. It strengthens work-related skills in writing, research, time management, budgeting, and oral communication.

Students at the Gulf Power Academy must choose an energy related topic for their Capstone project.