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Local & State News

Tampa Bay Tech grad ties skateboarding



Tampa, Florida - Every high school likes to brag about a success story, a graduate who makes it big. Tampa Bay Tech has such an alum. He is reportedly the largest skateboarding manufacturer in the country.

Isabel Mascareñas 43-year-old Paul Schmitt returned to Tampa Bay Tech nearly 25 years after graduating from the school. Some call him Professor Schmitt for his expertise.

Paul Schmitt, PS Stix, Inc:
"I made some of my first skateboard products here at school... launched my first company at 14."

Ten million skateboards later, Schmitt is a successful California businessman who's found a way to give back to young people: he's launching a new school program called "Create A Skate."

Schmitt:

"The whole curriculum focuses on math, science and engineering and artistry of making a skateboard.



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Schmitt is donating the materials to build 100 skateboards. Woodshop students will make their own skateboards, and art students will create their own artwork

His goal is to reach 5 million kids in 5 years. The class costs \$15 per student, and that includes the skateboard they keep.

Anyone interested in more information on the program go to http://www.createaskate.org/

Isabel Mascareñas, Tampa Bay's 10 News

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