



**SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY STATEWIDE CONVENTION  
COMES TO WEST PALM BEACH**  
Revealing the Importance of Being Certified in Florida

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (March 5, 2010) – On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Florida State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologist will host its Annual Statewide Convention at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, in West Palm Beach, FL. The Florida State Assembly brings together numerous professionals in hopes of ensuring quality and safe patient care, in addition to gaining more awareness and support on the importance and benefits of surgical technologist becoming certified. Their legislative committee has worked long and hard to advocate mandatory education and standardization of skills through registration, regulation, and possible licensure of their profession. It is imperative for them to gain the support from the Florida Hospital Association and the Florida Nurses Association for their bill to pass. To be a hair stylist or plumber, you are required to be certified; why not in the operating room.

Seminar registration opens at 7:30 am

Registration Fee: Up to 6 CEU's

Complimentary continental breakfast and lunch and much more in store for all attendees!!!

**Background**

The Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) is the only national organization that represents over 55,000 surgical technologists and surgical assistants. Established in 1969, is renowned as the oldest and most widely recognized professional organization for surgical technologists and surgical assistants. AST's primary purpose is to ensure that surgical technologists and surgical assistants have the knowledge and skills to administer safe patient care of the highest quality.

Surgical technology is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Currently, there are over 91,000 persons employed in surgical technologist positions throughout the United States. So fast, that it was recently projected to grow faster than the average of all other occupations through the year 2012. As baby boomers approach retirement age, the volume of surgery will increase exponentially and the high demand for this profession will follow suit.

**Profession Description:**

A Certified Surgical Technologist is an Allied Health professional largely unknown to the general population, performing his/her role behind the closed doors of the surgical suite. The CST sets up the

surgical case and assists the surgeon by passing sterile instruments, sutures and sponges during surgery, making sure that the operation proceeds smoothly and efficiently. He/she provides highly specialized care for the patient, keeping constant watch that the surgical procedure is conducted under sterile conditions, employing sophisticated surgical technology skills and applying in-depth knowledge of anatomy for each procedure being performed.

“This is a profession that may be hidden from the public eye, but it is well-respected and appreciated. We are the patient’s advocate and will settle for nothing less than to deliver the highest quality patient care. ”

Luis Melendez, CST, CFA  
FSA President

### **Importance of being certified**

Certification is not only beneficial towards the assurance of patient confidence but also beneficial to surgical technologists’ advancement in the workplace. In results published in the 2002 Job Analysis Report by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) 46% of Certified Surgical Technologists (CSTs) and 52% of Certified First Assistants (CFAs) reported that employers compensated them for maintaining their credential. An increasing number of employers are compensating employees for certification. In an online survey of surgical technologists conducted by NBSTSA, hourly wage differences between certified vs. noncertified staff ranged from a low of 50 cents per hour to a high of \$5 or more for earning the credential. At this rate, the certified surgical technologists have the potential to earn a minimum of \$2,000 annually over that of their noncertified team members.

View hourly rate in your state, [2009 Hourly Average Pay Rate](#)  
View certification verification, [Online Verification](#)

For more information about attending the Surgical Technology Statewide Convention, please contact Luis Melendez, CST, CFA at 904-807-5132 or visit [www.floridasurgicaltechs.org](http://www.floridasurgicaltechs.org)

About Palm Beach County Convention Center:

### **Palm Beach County Convention Center, the Best of Everything for Every Event!**

Since its opening on January 1, 2004, this 350,000 square-foot center has established itself as the premier ‘boutique’ meeting destination in South Florida; hosting a diverse array of conventions, trade shows/consumer shows, conferences, social events, and meetings. It features a 100,000 square-foot exhibit hall, a 22,000 square-foot ballroom and 21,000 square feet of flexible breakout space divisible into 19 rooms. The PBCCC resides in the heart of Downtown West Palm Beach within proximity to nearby attractions include CityPlace, a \$600-million shopping, dining and entertainment complex; the nationally acclaimed Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts; Palm Beach’s famous Worth Avenue; and South Florida’s beautiful beaches.

For more information about the Palm Beach County Convention Center, contact Tiffany Faublas at (561) 366-3017 or [tfaublas@pbconventioncenter.com](mailto:tfaublas@pbconventioncenter.com), or visit [www.pbconventioncenter.com](http://www.pbconventioncenter.com). For more information about Global Spectrum, visit [www.global-spectrum.com](http://www.global-spectrum.com).

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