

Hollywood school bets on slot repair classes

HOLLYWOOD - As the presence of casino gambling increases in Florida, an adult school in Hollywood has become the first to offer a state-approved course in slot-machine repair.

The Sheridan Technical Center's first nine-week class has 25 students, and the next session starts in October. Students, who pay \$651, must be at least 21 and have clean criminal records.

Gary Bitner, a spokesman for the Seminole Indians, says the tribe's casinos already have thousands of slot machines, with plans to install a total of 15,000. He says the demand for qualified technicians will be high, adding that graduates of the program could earn as much as \$18 an hour.

Florida has had Vegas-style slots since 2006, a year after they were approved by state lawmakers.