

Lowe's donates tools to MTI—prepares students for success

(Bradenton, FL—May 13, 2010) Lowe's donated approximately \$1,100 worth of Kobalt tools to Manatee Technical Institute's automotive service technology program today. As part of a new program called Toolbox for Education, Lowe's and Kobalt Tools in partnership with SkillsUSA are helping the next generation of trade professionals develop their skills.

MTI automotive technology instructor and SkillsUSA advisor James P. Nanney said, "This is a wonderful example of how industry works to partner with education, for the betterment of the automotive program and success of my students. With all the recent budget cuts, these tools will really help."

Bradenton store manager Todd Giammo called the Toolbox for Education program "a great partnership."

Nick Rutigliano, the commercial sales specialist for the 14th Street store, expounded on that partnership. "Lowe's donated \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of materials for the cabinet making, carpentry, electricity and plumbing competitions last month." The Florida SkillsUSA conference was held at MTI.

"I was very impressed," said Rutigliano. "We're losing our good craftsman. These students are our future."

According to MTI director Mary Cantrell, PhD, "SkillsUSA has a huge part in the transformation of our students because it provides skills and leadership training that they don't get any other way. Lowe's and Kobalt Tools support reinforces what we are teaching in at our school and shows the value of education-industry partnerships."

Two students accompanied Mr. Nanney to receive the tools. Both will be representing MTI and Florida in the SkillsUSA National Championships next month. Adult student Josh Sosa will compete in Automotive Service Technology, where he will have to demonstrate his ability to perform jobs and skills based on the task list outlined by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF). Dually enrolled Manatee High-MTI student Nelson Wintringham is part of a team that will present a Tech Prep Showcase in Transportation, Distribution and Logistics at the national competition. Both won first in the state at the Florida SkillsUSA conference.

Before the end of this month, Lowe's stores will have donated over \$440,000 worth of tools to over 400 SkillsUSA automotive service technology programs across the nation.

SkillsUSA is national nonprofit organization that promotes excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education to better prepare them for successful careers.

The mission of Manatee Technical Institute is to meet and exceed our community's training and educational expectations. MTI is a 2007 Tampa Bay Business of the Year and has won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school or college in the nation for the past six years.

Photo: Manatee Technical Institute's automotive service technology program received a Kobalt tool set worth over \$1,000 from Lowe's. The donation is part of Lowe's Toolbox for Education program. Bradenton store manager Todd Giammo and commercial sales specialist Nick Rutigliano presented the tools to James P. Nanney, MTI automotive service technology instructor, and two of his students, Josh Sosa and Nelson Wintringham. Pictured from left to right are Sosa, Nanney, Rutigliano, Giammo, and Wintringham.

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