

For Governor's Office: Information on MTI on NBC

A national news story featuring Manatee Technical Institute (Manatee County, Florida) aired on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m. on NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.

The story was about people who have been affected by the economy who are following their dreams and going back to school to prepare for new careers. The NBC story featured one of MTI's former students, Mark High, a 50-year-old 2008 nursing graduate who is now employed as an LPN in the stroke unit at Manatee Memorial--Mark had been laid off from a middle management position after 30 years with an area chemical plant. The story included MTI director Dr. Mary Cantrell's idea that the devastation of a layoff can be turned into a positive when viewed as an opportunity to pursue a career one has always dreamed of doing. It also included scenes of MTI's practical nursing and EMT students performing scenarios in their labs as they prepare for new careers.

Since this time last year, MTI has seen an 18% increase in enrollment, which can be attributed in large part to the economic downturn--in particular job losses in the construction, retail and manufacturing sectors. MTI is seeing more people in their 40s and 50s coming for retraining, as well as more 18 to 22 year olds who are postponing work to gain more skills. MTI is serving an important role as they help people regain their sense of dignity and return to work in more stable professions or prepare for the economic upswing.



