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## **Health occupations students win national medals and other awards**

*(Bradenton, FL—July 5, 2011)* The Manatee Technical Institute Postsecondary Chapter of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) won a variety of honors at the 2011 National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California.

Nine students placed first, second or third in the nation. Nine additional students placed in the top 10, and the Creative Problem Solving team earned an honorable mention.

Ronai Krugh, MTI's HOSA Chapter student advisor, was awarded the national "Postsecondary/Collegiate HOSA Advisor of the Year" award during the National Recognition Session.

Manatee Technical Institute was also recognized during the opening session as having the largest postsecondary/collegiate HOSA chapter in the nation.

2011 HOSA National Postsecondary/Collegiate champions from MTI: **Career Health Display**, 1st: Kevin Whitcomb and Hector Cadena – Surgical Technology Program; **Dental Assisting**, 1st: Ivonne Morales – Dental Assisting Program, 3rd: Brandy Lewis – Dental Assisting Program; **Extemporaneous Health Poster**, 3rd: Jamie Yucha – Dental Assisting Program; **Health Education**, 1st: Steven Pawluk and Chris Kotchi – Optometric Technician Program; **Job Seeking Skills**, 1st: John Dembiec – Surgical Technology Program, 3rd: Amy Gray – Surgical Technology Program.

Top ten finalists were Marcos Alvarez, Tony Leon, Jonathan Richmond, Devon Whitlock, Elizabeth Witting, Katarzyna Misztal, Jennifer Washington, Helena Chavarria, and Morgan Clark. Honorable mention went to Nadean Cowsert, Allison Lenehen and William Rockwell.

### **About HOSA**

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of Adult Career and Technical Education. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA provides a unique program of leadership development, motivation, and recognition exclusively for secondary, postsecondary, adult, and collegiate students enrolled in Health Science Education programs.

### **About Manatee Technical Institute**

Manatee Technical Institute is a postsecondary career and technical education center under the School District of Manatee County offering over 40 career preparation programs. It is fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. 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 its students have won more SkillsUSA medals than any other school in the nation for the past eight years.

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