

Contact: Maura C. Howl, APR 941.751.7900, ext 2095 howlmc@manateeschools.net

Manatee Technical Institute Students Become Master Certified

(Bradenton, FL—April 25, 2011) Two Manatee Technical Institute automotive technology students and 13 business technology students have become Master Certified in their respective fields this year.

Stephen Hitchen and **Josh Sosa** are the two MTI automotive technology students to become Master Certified. They have earned ASE Certified Master Automotive Technician (CMAT) status.

To earn the CMAT, a technician must pass a series of eight tests. Now more than ever, employers are looking to hire technicians with ASE certification.

Both MTI graduates are currently employed in Bradenton as automotive technicians: Hitchen at Midway Shell and Sosa at Select Auto Repair.

ASE is a proven way to identify a professional technician. A Master Technician wears a special insignia in his uniform and carries a card in his wallet. Technicians must re-certify every five years to maintain their status.

Of the 13 business tech students, **Brooks Lough** is the only high school student to earn this certification. Lough is dual-enrolled in MTI's Accounting Operations Program and in Southeast High school.

To become Master Certified, the students passed the following Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification exams: Word 2007, Excel 2007, Outlook 2007, and PowerPoint 2007.

Lough earned a perfect score on the PowerPoint 2007 exam.

MOS is recognized globally as the premier credential chosen by individuals seeking to validate their knowledge, skills and abilities relating to the Microsoft Office systems.

About Manatee Technical Institute

Manatee Technical Institute is fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a postsecondary career and technical education center under the School District of Manatee County offering over 40 career preparation programs. 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 seven years.

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