



5603 34th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34210

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

Farmworker program & adult ed instructor earn awards

(Bradenton, FL—November 1, 2011) Manatee County School's Farmworker Jobs and Education program has been awarded a **Gold Certificate of Excellence** by the Florida Department of Education, Adult Migrant Program and Services. The Manatee Technical Institute program earned the highest award in the State of Florida for its achievements during program year 2010-11. Program status summary: 167 percent of New Participants, 112 percent of Entered Employment, and 171 percent of Complete Training Service. Program coordinator Esperanza Gamboa and her team received the award in Tallahassee last week.

Earlier in the month, adult education instructor Irina Zimmerman was awarded the **Excellence in Adult and Technical Virtual Education Award** in honor of her Outstanding Achievement in Virtual Adult Education from the Florida Adult and Technical Distance Education Consortium (FATDEC). She was presented the award at the 2011 Adult and Community Education Conference in Orlando. Zimmerman does all the distance learning for MTI's adult education program and serves over 400 adult students a year who are improving their literacy or preparing for their GED online. For more information on the distance learning program, Zimmerman can be reached at zimmermani@manateeschools.net.

One of Manatee School District's *EdVantage* core values is that lifelong learning is essential for individuals and communities to flourish. The awards earned by Ms. Zimmerman and the Farmworker Program exemplify this value.

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 in the nation for the past eight years.

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