



5603 34<sup>th</sup> St. W., Bradenton, FL 34210

Contact: Maura C. Howl, APR

941.751.7900, ext 2095

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[howlmc@manateeschools.net](mailto:howlmc@manateeschools.net)

## ***MTI “We Care” Dental Clinic for Elementary Students***

*(Bradenton, FL—April 2, 2009)*

“We Care” is the name of a new dental clinic put together by Manatee Technical Institute dental assisting students. The first group of children to be served by this pilot project will be from McNeal Elementary. The students will be providing pediatric teeth cleanings, fluoride treatments, and radiographs under the direct supervision of a local dentist. The “We Care” clinic plans to serve 25 children on April 15, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at MTI East.

According to the U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on Oral Health in America, dental decay is the #1 childhood disease. MTI dental assisting program director Kim Bland, CDA, reports that many children do not have access to dental care. She said, “Pain and suffering due to untreated dental disease can lead to problems eating, sleeping, speaking and learning. We’re hoping to start with McNeal and eventually serve all of the elementary schools in Manatee County Schools.”

The project strives to serve under-privileged youth. Parents will be charged a nominal fee of \$10 to cover materials (polish, fluoride, x-rays) costs only. Appointments for this pilot project are being made by the school nurse at McNeal Elementary. The clinic will be held at MTI’s East Campus at 5520 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard.

The MTI students are active in the Health Occupations Students of America and SkillsUSA. The clinic is a community service project for both student organizations.

*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 five years.*

###