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Culinary students do service learning at Empty Bowls

(Bradenton, FL—October 21, 2010) Students from the Culinary Arts program at Manatee Technical Institute had the opportunity to do some service learning at the Empty Bowls food bank fundraiser at the Renaissance on 9th today.

Vera Cole and James Norris, both culinary students and members of the career and technical student organization SkillsUSA, were happy to be there today serving a Chicken Tortellini soup prepared by Norris. “It’s a good feeling to give back to the community,” said Norris.

Service learning is a concept that is defined as students performing a service for their community that is in their field of study, so they are learning their skill as they are helping others.

Norris is returning to the culinary field, which he was in for 15 years before he went into construction. After 17 years as a supervisor with the same company, he got laid off when the company went out of business. He wants to get his food license back. Cole, the mother of two, has the opportunity to go back to school with the support of her husband. She enjoys baking and hopes to find a niche there.

Manatee Technical Institute helps thousands of people train for new careers each year. SkillsUSA promotes excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education to better prepare them for successful careers.

Regarding Empty Bowls, Cole commented, “It was a great cause and wonderful to see so many friendly people and their great reaction to the soup!”

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 seven years.

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