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MTI Fire Science Students Promote Fire Safety in Manatee County

(Bradenton, FL—June 11, 2009) Manatee Technical Institute Fire Science students made a presentation to the Manatee County Commissioners at their June 9 meeting, taking their studies into the public arena. Graduates Derek LaPlante (Palmetto High), Andrew Griffon (Palmetto High) and William Alstrom (Manatee High) presented to the commissioners their legislative initiative for the installation of detection devices in nursing homes and residential occupancies.

Their presentation focused on the importance of detecting “the silent killer,” carbon monoxide. The students explained that CO detectors are similar to smoke detectors and that the price of the unit is relatively inexpensive, ranging between \$10 and \$40.

MTI’s team is endorsed by the Bradenton Fire Department, Manatee County Builder’s Association, Manatee County Nursing Home Association, Representative Bill Galvano (Florida District 68) and many more.

The team stressed that monitors also provide value to the community by protecting firefighters in the course of their duties from the toxic effects of gases that are odorless, colorless, tasteless, non-irritating, and extremely flammable.

The three MTI students are preparing to compete in the Government and Public Administration Tech Prep Showcase at the 2009 SkillsUSA Championships at the end of this month. In the Tech Prep Showcase competition, students make a professional team presentation applying the appropriate technology associated with their program. The MTI team brought home gold medals in both the regional and state competitions.

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.

Photo: Manatee Technical Institute students Derek LaPlante, Andrew Griffon and William Alstrom presented a legislative initiative to County Commissioners June 9. The team wants to see carbon monoxide detectors installed in nursing homes and residences. They will present their idea nationally at the 2009 SkillsUSA Championships.

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