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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTI to offer new baking and pastry program

(Bradenton, FL—April 19, 2011) Manatee Technical Institute has been approved by the Florida Department of Education to offer a new Baking and Pastry Program beginning in August 2012.

The adult postsecondary career certificate program will prepare students for employment as a pastry chef or head baker. Chefs and head cooks are on the workforce region's Targeted Occupations List.

According to the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, the median salary for chefs and head cooks in this area is \$40,100. A student attending full-time will be able to complete the program in about six months.

Graduates will be prepared to become a Certified Pastry Culinarian through the American Culinary Federation. The MTI culinary program is accredited by ACF.

MTI will be the first (and so far only) tech center in the state of Florida with a dedicated Pastry program. Dana Johnson, Baking & Pastry Chef Instructor at the Main Campus, wrote the curriculum frameworks for the state over this past year.

Johnson is the former assistant pastry chef at the Longboat Key Club and a graduate of the MTI Culinary Arts program. Prior to joining MTI's faculty, he had over ten years of industry experience in restaurants, hotels and resorts. Johnson holds seven medals in national and international competitions and competes regularly in ACF sanctioned events.

Students who qualify will be eligible for federal financial aid to attend the 600-hour career preparation program.

For more information about this new program, contact Mr. Johnson at 941-751-7900, ext. 2112, or email him at johnson2d@manateeschools.net.

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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