

MTI to Dedicate Peace Pole & Hold Multicultural Fest

Students leading the project formed organization called Peace Through Travel & Tourism

(Bradenton, FL—May 12, 2009) Manatee Technical Institute's Travel and Tourism students will dedicate a peace pole and hold a multicultural festival at MTI's Main Campus on May 19, 2009, from 10:15 a.m. to noon. The project leaders (Juliana Ortiz, Kathy Tangisaraphab and Thomas Ashton) have formed an organization to be known as Peace Through Travel and Tourism or PT3. The community is invited.

The multi-cultural festival will include history, arts, culture, music and food from around the world. Specific countries being represented are Estonia, Italy, Peru, Haiti, Jamaica, Chile, Russia, Colombia, and Thailand.

Students will be selling a \$5 food passport that will allow visitors to sample cuisine from every country. Their idea is to offer a way for the community to experience other cultures without spending a lot of money or traveling long distances.

The PT3 students are hoping to raise awareness of their new organization, as well as raise funds to help pay their expenses to Kansas City to compete next month at the national SkillsUSA Championships. In April, the students won a gold medal at the state conference for their idea.

Tax-deductible donations to support the students in their venture can be made out to the MTI Foundation, a 501(c)(3). The foundation provides scholarships to students and supports student travel costs for career and technical student organization competitions.

MTI is located at 5603 34th Street West in Bradenton. The dedication and festival will be held in the courtyard.

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.