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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTI student saves man's life

(Bradenton, FL—April 13, 2011) Amy Hamilton is a hero and an angel to one 40-year-old Sarasota man. He attributes saving his life to her. On her break from clinicals, the Manatee Technical Institute nursing student administered the Heimlich maneuver when she noticed him choking in the Blake Hospital cafeteria last week.

According to Mark, who prefers to remain anonymous, he was eating a roast beef sandwich and watching the Governor on television. He started to respond out loud to something the Governor was saying and instead he inhaled his food. He said he made a sudden sharp sound as he tried to gasp for air and couldn't get any. And then he couldn't make a sound. He began to realize that he might choke to death. His grandmother, whom he had come to visit, was upstairs, and yet he might be the one to die. "It was very scary. It makes you realize how vulnerable we all really are," he reflected.

People were eating around him and no one seemed to notice, except for Amy. She jumped to her feet and asked him two times, "Are you choking?!" He couldn't respond. She immediately got behind him and administered the Heimlich maneuver. On the third thrust, the meat was dislodged and Mark could breathe again.

"You saved my life!" he exclaimed. He was so embarrassed; he wanted to run out of the cafeteria. Amy asked him to sit down for a minute. "She was so calming and nice," he said. "I thanked her for being such a great nurse." And that's when he learned she was a student.

Amy just started the practical nurse program at MTI in February. She had completed the CNA program last school year. With much humility, she said, "I was so focused. I couldn't think of anything except making sure he was okay."

"I couldn't believe it. Here I was in a hospital, and a student saved my life." Mark intoned in a still somewhat raspy voice, "If anyone needs to be a nurse, it's Amy Hamilton! I want this story to be told, because she deserves recognition."

"I love Blake—doing clinicals there—all the doctors and nurses there are great," said Amy. She will graduate in December. It seems her career is already well underway.

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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