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MTI Student One of Four in U.S. Awarded Scholarship

(Bradenton, FL—May 3, 2011) Maria Garcia, an industrial technology student at Manatee Technical Institute, has won a scholarship from the National Technical Honor Society. Garcia was the only college/postsecondary member in the nation to be awarded a scholarship. The announcement came last night at the Opening Ceremony for the 2011 Florida SkillsUSA Conference.

NTHS awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to SkillsUSA members from around the United States. The other three scholarships were awarded to high school members.

Garcia is well deserving of the award. At 19 years old, she is hard at work pursuing her dream of owning a machine shop.

After graduating from Bayshore High School in 2009, she enrolled in and completed the Mechanical Drafting program at MTI. This year, she is taking Machining and Accounting Operations at MTI.

In addition to her career preparation, Garcia has earned the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering over 130 hours on projects for the Salvation Army, she serves as secretary to the MTI student chapter of the Lions Club, she and she performs in piano recitals.

She is competing in Machining today at the FL-SkillsUSA competition.

To be eligible for the NTHS scholarship, students must be active, dues-paying members of both SkillsUSA and NTHS.

2011 National Technical Honor Society Scholarship Honorees:

- Maria Garcia, Industrial Technology, Bradenton, FL, Manatee Technical Institute - College/Postsecondary
- Nathaniel Perry, Visual Communications, Norwich, NY, Chenango Area BOCES - High School
- Zackery Minor, Graphic Communications, Bartlesville, OK, Tri County Technology Center - High School
- Danielle Walter, Interactive Multimedia, Canfield, OH, Mahoning County Career and Technical Center - High School

About National Technical Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society is a leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. Thousands of schools and colleges throughout the U.S. and its territories have a chapter of the honor society on their campus. NTHS encourages higher scholastic achievement, cultivates a desire for personal excellence, and helps top students find success in today's highly competitive workplace.

About SkillsUSA

SkillsUSA is the largest career and technical student organization in the United States. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA serves more than 313,000 members annually and helps each student excel. Members have the opportunity to compete at regional, state and national levels, learn and practice leadership skills, earn recognition, and establish job contacts.

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.

PHOTO: Maria Garcia (front) learns of her scholarship at the FL-SkillsUSA opening ceremony, which she attended with friends Diana Lopez (left) and Claudia Cruz (middle). Garcia was the only college/postsecondary student in the nation to be awarded the National Technical Honor Society scholarship.

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