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## ***MTI to Host Florida SkillsUSA Competition***

*(Bradenton, FL—April 16, 2009)* Manatee Technical Institute will host the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual SkillsUSA Florida State Leadership and Skills Conference April 20 through 22. Over 1,200 high-school, tech center and college students from over 70 schools, including over 200 from MTI, will compete for state titles and the chance to compete at the national level.

Judges for the competitions are from business and industry. A representative from Sun Hydraulics will be a judge in the Robotics and Automation contest.

Business and industry also sponsors many competitions. Merit Electric is a sponsor for the Industrial Motor Control and Residential Wiring competitions; Suffolk Construction donated all the materials for the Carpentry event; Lowe's is sponsoring the Team-works competition; and Southern Brick Institute is sponsoring the Brick Masonry contest, as well as donating the brick for the Team-works competition.

The director of Florida SkillsUSA, Carl Miller, as well as the members of the Florida SkillsUSA board of directors will be on hand to help kick off the competition. This is the fifth year in a row MTI has hosted the state championships.

SkillsUSA is an international organization that promotes excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education to better prepare them for successful careers.

For the past five years, MTI has exceeded all other schools by winning the most medals in the state and the nation. Gold medalists will proceed to national competition in June in Kansas City.

The championships are open to the public. Visitors are required to check in at the MTI administration building. See attached agenda.

*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.*

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