

MTI huge winner at Florida SkillsUSA

(Bradenton, FL—April 22, 2010) The Manatee Civic Center was filled with cheers and applause as about 1,800 students and supporters from across the state convened to see the winners announced and medals awarded for the 43rd Annual Florida SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference last night. No other school came close to winning the number of medals won by Manatee Technical Institute: 201 medals (119 gold, 59 silver and 23 bronze).

The gold medalists, as well as other qualifying students from MTI, will advance to the national championships being held in Kansas City, Missouri, in June. They will represent MTI and the State of Florida and compete for the national title in their skill or leadership area.

Over 1,700 students from high schools, technical centers and colleges from across the state competed in 106 skills and leadership contests, each with two divisions (secondary and postsecondary) and some being team events. The three day competition, which began April 19, was hosted by MTI.

Over 200 representatives from business and industry, including the Culinary Institute of America volunteered their time as judges for the state event. Many companies generously donated tools and other items as gifts for the winners.

The SkillsUSA contests are the most important opportunity that students have to compete against their peers and demonstrate their skills. This is the seventh year in row that MTI has come out on top at the state level. For the past six years, MTI has exceeded all other schools by winning the most medals in the nation.

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.

Photo 1: MTI web design students Cedanio Bacon, Jason Hrnak, Joshua Barber and Bianca Holland took first place in Entrepreneurship (postsecondary/college division) for their design of a multimedia web design company.

Photo 2: MTI students swept the Prepared Speech (postsecondary/college division) contest. David Racke (middle) won the gold, Teresa Kinsey won the silver, and Craig Bain took the bronze.

Photo 3: MTI welding students won a first place trophy for their Chapter Display (postsecondary/college division). They created a display featuring the USA, FL, and Manatee County using their welding skills. Pictured are Brenda Cook, Amber Murphy, and Heidi Parson.

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 six years.

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