

MTI top winner at Florida SkillsUSA

(Bradenton, FL—April 23, 2009) The energy was high as over 1,400 students from across the state filled the Manatee Civic Center and responded with cheers and applause as awards were announced for the 42nd Annual Florida SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference last night. Manatee Technical Institute students came in first in the state with over 200 medals. This is the most medals any school has won in the history of FL-SkillsUSA. Sarasota County Technical Institute came in second with 57 medals, and the P-Tec St. Pete came in third with 50.

The gold medalists, as well as 10 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 1,400 students from high schools and technical centers 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 20, was hosted by MTI.

Over 150 representatives from business and industry, including the Culinary Institute of America and the American Association of Medical Assistants 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 sixth year in row that MTI has come out on top at the state level. For the past five 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.

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 four years.

PHOTO: MTI gold medal team for Tech Prep Showcase: Hospitality and Tourism. Ashton Thomas stands beside his team-mates Juliana Ortiz and Kathy Tangisaraphab (far right) glowing with their success on the first-place winners' platform.

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