

MTI students present ATTAC program at local schools

Dental Assisting and Nursing program students work to stop smoking before it starts

(Bradenton, FL—November 20, 2009) Manatee Technical Institute Dental Assisting and LPN programs presented the AHEC Tobacco Training and Cessation (ATTAC) program to elementary and middle school students in Manatee and Sarasota counties Thursday, November 19, 2009.

The ATTAC Program is a comprehensive instructional plan sponsored by the Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, Inc. (GSAHEC) designed to teach health professions students about tobacco, help them develop professional skills necessary to address its use with their patients and have them serve as role models while educating youth about the dangers of tobacco. Lesson plans, videos and teaching kits are provided to future health professionals to help them deliver an anti-tobacco message aimed at vulnerable school-aged children in the community.

Over 1,000 students from across the state completed this training program. Students then had a month and a half to organize their lesson plans. MTI students visited Tara Elementary, McNeal Elementary, PAL Charter, Sugg Middle, Moody Elementary, Sarasota Middle and Lincoln Middle.

November 19 was also The American Cancer Society's 34th Great American Smokeout. The program encouraged smokers to quit smoking on this day. By quitting, smokers take an important step towards a healthy lifestyle. The American Cancer Society reminded smokers, "Less Smoking Leads to More Birthdays."

"MTI's participation in the ATTAC Program is a true reflection of their commitment to helping in their community. Through their leadership and role-modeling, the LPN and Dental Assistant students from MTI are helping to generate awareness among our youth of the devastating impact of tobacco. In the last two years, they have provided anti-tobacco presentations to over 880 elementary and middle school students in Manatee County. I am excited to see how many students they will reach this year!" said Emily Hite, Tobacco Training Coordinator.

If you would like to see the ATTAC program in action or need more information, please contact Emily Hite at (941)361-6602 or email ehite@health.usf.edu.

For more information about MTI's Dental Assisting and Nursing programs, please contact career counselor Kathy Matthews at (941) 752-8100, extension 227, or email matthewk@manateeschools.net.

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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