



5603 34th St. W., Bradenton, FL 34210

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MTI to dedicate solar energy project next Tuesday

(Bradenton, FL—November 3, 2010) Manatee Technical Institute will dedicate two solar carports at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9. Students built the energy-saving alternative energy sources as a service learning project funded by **State Farm**.

MTI was selected from more than 500 applicants, nationwide, to be awarded \$100,000 in service learning grant money from the **State Farm Youth Advisory Board** in 2009. With that award, Manatee Technical Institute students constructed two solar carports. Thanks to State Farm Youth Advisory Board support, MTI has been able to teach the value of alternative energy technology to give students skills they will need to succeed in the workplace.

Manatee Technical Institute and State Farm invite the public for the dedication of the completed structures:

Solar Carport Dedication
10:00 am, Tuesday, November 9, 2010
Manatee Technical Institute
5603 34th Street West, Bradenton FL

With support from the local community, students were responsible for the construction of the carports. The design and engineering of the Photovoltaics PVL System was performed by **Eco Solar** a division of **Eco Technologies**; the installation was a joint effort with the carpentry and electricity students and created a hands-on experience and learning opportunity for the students. The students also received instruction from **Rayco Electric** and **Sutter Roofing**; they had hands-on experience as they learned how to wire the electrical system and install the roof. **Charlie Woehle** guided and instructed the students on building permitting and the business side of carpentry. **John Ziemnicki, World Design**, checked the structural integrity of the proposed structure that drafting students had drawn up. Woehle and Ziemnicki used their contractor's and structural engineering licenses, respectively, to stamp the drawings. Welding students constructed the steel columns upon which the roofing structure sits.

The career preparation programs in electricity, carpentry, plumbing and HVAC were expanded to add alternative energy technology to the curriculum. The electricity generated from the solar project will replace power from oil fired power plants, charge the batteries of electric cars and plug-in hybrids, and help to supply electricity to the school's main campus.

(more)

If planning to attend the event, please RSVP to Maura C. Howl, MTI's Grants & Public Relations Specialist, at 941-751-7900, ext. 2095, or howlmc@manateeschools.net.

About the State Farm Youth Advisory Board

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is diverse group of 30 youths, ages 17-20, who are chosen through a competitive process to lead and oversee a \$5 million-a-year signature service-learning initiative. The Youth Board identifies the issues, provides competitive grants, communication and oversight to site grantees.

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.

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