

# CAREERS IN ACTION

ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY

**Students:  
Need employability  
skills? Try MTI!**



**LEARN today, EARN tomorrow, SHAPE your future NOW** [www.ManateeACT.com](http://www.ManateeACT.com)

## Need employability skills? MTI can help.

Are you looking for ways to become recession proof, enhance your employability skills, or earn the latest in industry-recognized certifications? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) can help you meet your personal career goals.

MTI is a postsecondary (after high school) career and technical education center and part of the School District of Manatee County. MTI is fully accredited by the Council on Occupational Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which means that its programs meet high quality standards.

MTI offers over 40 career preparation programs on two campuses that are designed to meet the needs of today's employers. Whether your interests lie in public service, healthcare, business, computer technology, construction trades, and more, MTI's knowledgeable instructors are prepared to help you succeed in today's highly competitive job market. One career program that is expected to have excellent prospects is the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program.

Out on the main campus, we found instructor John Ferraro in the HVAC shop where all was quiet as students worked diligently to complete their OSHA\* certifications.

"Right now my students are taking an OSHA exam," John said. "HVAC students will have earned CPR\*, EPA, OSHA, forklift, and HVAC certifications upon completion of the program. These are exactly the certifications that today's employers are looking for."

"Our program is really unique," he continued. "We have strong community support and we are keeping pace with the rapidly changing technological advancements. We focus on the need for strong troubleshooting skills, especially electrical. Currently students are working on a class project about solar energy and how it relates to HVAC units. This is great for gaining hands-on experience and earning volunteer hours. We also stress good communication skills as they are a valuable asset in any job."

HVAC student Geoff Burmann has held a multitude of jobs in the past including welding, cutting, millwrighting, and fabrication. He was in the process of broadening his technical skills at a vocational school in Haines City when the job market dried up, leaving him no choice but to move closer to family and resume his studies in HVAC at MTI.

"I'm working towards getting a better job and making more money," Geoff said. "The teachers are excellent here and John is practically an encyclopedia. Our class project is a win-win. We're learning new skills and donating the units we've reconditioned to Habitat for Humanity."

Being successful in today's job market requires sharp skills, the ability to communicate, and often an industry certification in a specific area. MTI prepares students with all of these, and can help you achieve your career goals. Contact MTI today for further information about career programs, registration information, and financial aid.



John Ferraro (left) and Geoff Burmann in front of the refrigeration electrical training board where students spend hours honing their troubleshooting skills



Manatee and Sarasota students took it beyond the classroom and attended the International Builders Show recently held in Orlando. Students explored green products and systems related to the building industry.

\*Acronym definitions: Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

# JOB



**HVAC Mechanics**  
Salary: \$31,300 – \$47,500  
Workplace: commercial and residential  
Hours: daytime except for emergencies



**Plumbers**  
Salary: \$29,700 – \$43,800  
Workplace: commercial and residential  
Hours: daytime except for emergencies



**Home Appliance Repairers**  
Salary: \$29,000 – \$47,000  
Workplace: residential  
Hours: daytime except for emergencies



SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers, and industry which helps its members become world-class workers, leaders, and responsible citizens. Manatee Technical Institute has claimed the national championship in the SkillsUSA competitions for seven straight years.

## PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: Talk to your child about what types of careers might be in demand whether or not the economy is in a recession. (Hint: cars and air conditioners will always break down and will always need repaired.)
- Discuss with your student why lifelong learning will help protect them against downturns in the economy. Talk about the need to gain in-demand skills and then keep those skills current.
- "HVAC is a recession proof business. There is always a need for air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration." John Ferraro, MTI HVAC instructor. For further information, contact MTI Guidance Counselor Vickie Miller at (941) 751-7900 ext. 2016.

## FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What certifications do MTI's HVAC students earn?

Answer: CPR, EPA, OSHA, forklift, and HVAC certification.

## What's on the WEB?

[www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org](http://www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org)  
[www.natex.org](http://www.natex.org)  
[www.hvaccareers.com](http://www.hvaccareers.com)

**EdVantage**  
Inspiring Our Students to Learn, Dream and Achieve.

**EdVantage Strategic Objective #3: Each student will continually participate in the democratic process.**

**Smaller Learning Communities**

**ACT**  
Shaping the Future  
ADULT, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



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