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## Employment Success: Changing Lives Since 1963

In 1963 a gallon of gas cost 29 cents, the minimum wage was \$1.25, and Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) opened its doors to just over 200 students. Flash forward to 2011 and the price of gas is hovering at \$3.50 per gallon, minimum wage is \$7.25, and MTI now enrolls 3,090 students, each on a path towards employment success. Leading the charge in the school's 15-year record of phenomenal growth and development is Dr. Mary Cantrell, MTI's Director.

"It all started with a vision," Dr. Cantrell said. "That vision is, 'Manatee Technical Institute is nationally recognized for excellence in technical training and academic education.' That vision means state-of-the-art facilities, industry-driven curriculum, and a dedicated staff."

"Here at MTI we are known for the excellent job we are doing in preparing our graduates. For the past seven years, students from MTI have won more medals at National SkillsUSA than any other school in the nation. Last year, MTI's health occupations students won more medals at National Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) competition than any other school in the nation."

SkillsUSA and HOSA are both Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO's) that help students gain specific career readiness skills as well as those in leadership, management, negotiating, and working within a group structure. Dr. Cantrell believes so strongly in students mastering their particular industry's skill set that all students are required to compete at the SkillsUSA Regional level with the possibility of advancing to States and Nationals.

"Most of our programs can be completed in a year or less," Dr. Cantrell shared. "We use the tagline, 'Give us a year, we'll give you a career.' The best part of my job is watching the transformation that happens to the students during that year. I am not the person in the classroom making that difference; however, I am the one watching the magic that MTI instructors perform every year. I've watched the weak become strong, the shy become outgoing, and the sad become happy. I have seen the unemployed learn a skill that enabled them to start a career. When these graduates come back to visit, they frequently stop by my office and tell me how much they love MTI and how the school changed their lives. Our graduates are the fabric of our community."

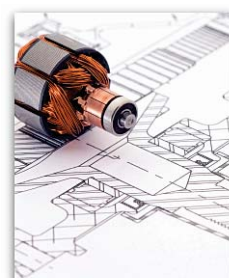


Some of the teachers and staff from Manatee Technical Institute (MTI).

# JOB



**Legal Administrative Assistant**  
Salary: \$29,700 – \$43,100  
Workplace: law firms  
Hours: daytime



**Mechanical Drafters**  
Salary: \$36,700 – \$52,400  
Workplace: manufacturing, design  
Hours: varies



**Hemodialysis Technician**  
(“Health technologist, other”)  
Salary: \$22,500 – \$54,400  
Workplace: medical laboratories, hospitals  
Hours: varies



MTI's students compete in SkillsUSA, a partnership of students, teachers, and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, as well as HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), a national organization that promotes career opportunities in health care.



## PARENT CORNER

- ✓ Discussion starter: It's never been more important to gain a marketable skill, one that helps ensure your child can earn a living wage once they grow up and move out on their own. Talk to them about the many career options available at Manatee Technical Institute.
- ✓ Your junior or senior may be eligible for dual enrollment at MTI, which means they could earn a solid skill while still in high school. Ask your child's academic advisor or guidance counselor about dual enrollment.
- ✓ "Every year, our graduation speakers are several of the graduates. Their stories of triumph over adversity stay in my heart. I have the best job in the world!" Manatee Technical Institute Director Dr. Mary Cantrell. For information about MTI's programs, registration dates, and tuition, call (941) 751-7900 or visit [www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org](http://www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org).

## FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What is MTI's tagline?

Answer: "Give us a year, we'll give you a career."

## What's on the WEB?

- [www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org](http://www.ManateeTechnicalInstitute.org)
- [www.TechTimesOnline.org](http://www.TechTimesOnline.org)
- [www.ed2go.com/MTI](http://www.ed2go.com/MTI)
- [www.SkillsUSA.org](http://www.SkillsUSA.org)
- [www.HOSA.org](http://www.HOSA.org)