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Crafting a Solid Career at MTI

Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) is home to a vast network of career preparation programs designed to meet the needs of today's adult students, whether they are starting out or starting over. From accounting and air conditioning to surgical technologist and salon services, MTI's programs prepare students with the qualities and credentials needed to be successful in today's highly competitive job market.

Current economic trends indicate the beginning of a turnaround in the construction industry that up until recently has teetered on the verge of a standstill. Meanwhile, MTI has continued to prepare students for the career of their choice. Graduates are poised and equipped to fill the needs of employers as the construction industry once again gains firmer footing.

In Mr. Barry King's Carpentry class, the smell of fresh cut wood fills the air as students work diligently towards earning a Certificate of Completion and their National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certification card. NCCER is a nationally recognized credential for industry-driven, standardized training programs, and earning this certification becomes a valuable asset for employability in the trades.

To provide students with new and challenging projects, Barry draws on service projects that give back to our community. Upcoming assignments include crafting covered bus trolley shelters with benches and building an addition on a single family dwelling.

"Classroom theory is heavily supported with hands-on practical application," Barry said. "And giving back to the community is very important."

"I like this field because I get satisfaction out of seeing what I make," said Bayshore High School graduate Jean Seide, now in his seventh month of MTI's Carpentry program. "I've made tables, chairs, and desks. I've learned to master the reciprocating saw, circular saw, and table saw as well as the planer and router table. My goal is to further my education in the construction industry by studying construction technology at the college level and then become a private contractor."

Jean recently competed in SkillsUSA at the regional level where he placed first in both Cabinet Making and Opening and Closing Ceremonies. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. The organization provides students with leadership opportunities as well as skills competitions against peers at the regional, state, and national levels. Jean's regional wins have secured him a place to compete at the state level in April, and he hopes to advance to nationals this summer. MTI is nationally recognized as the SkillsUSA seven-year national champion, a spectacular accomplishment that speaks to the quality of teachers, students, and administration at MTI.



Manatee Technical Institute carpentry student Jean Seide works with a table saw.



Carpentry students pay close attention to learning the formula for calculating stair treads and risers from MTI instructors Jimmy Eisner, on the left, and Barry King, on the right.

JOBS



Cabinetmakers
Salary: \$29,000 – \$43,500
Workplace: commercial and residential construction
Hours: daytime



Construction Laborers
Salary: \$21,700 – \$33,200
Workplace: commercial and residential construction
Hours: daytime



Carpenters
Salary: \$24,100 – \$50,500
Workplace: commercial and residential construction
Hours: daytime



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: Is your child a hands-on learner? Does he or she enjoy building things, making things, and fixing things? Discover the many hands-on opportunities at Manatee Technical Institute, and talk to your children about careers that leverage their natural talents and abilities.
- ✓ In a tight job market, talk to your child about why in-demand skills and lifelong learning are more important than ever. Keep careers as an everyday topic of discussion.
- ✓ "Be ready to embrace change—technology is always improving products and designs." Barry King, MTI Carpentry instructor. For further information, contact MTI Guidance Counselor Vickie Miller at (941) 751-7900 ext. 2016.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What three levels of skills competitions do SkillsUSA members enjoy?

Answer: District, State, and National competitions

What's on the WEB?

- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org
- www.finewoodworking.com
- www.thefamilyhandyman.com



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



The Careers in Action Page is published every Wednesday in the Bradenton Herald. Provided by Newspapers in Education.

Jill McGarry (941) 748-0411 ext. 7036, jmcgarry@bradenton.com, Julie Beacham-Hoole, Page Editor.