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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in Education Presents
Inquizi
Brought to you by Adult, Career & Technical Education



SCHOOL Biz



That's no whirlwind... that's MTI's Linda Agresta!

On a typical day at the west Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) campus, you might notice a whirlwind moving swiftly about the grounds and buildings. Do not be alarmed. Do not seek cover. Do not call 911. It's just Linda Agresta!

At the center of this vortex is one extraordinary woman. Linda brings energy, enthusiasm, and joy to work every day as Assistant Director of Academics over MTI's Adult Education Program. She is devoted to meeting and exceeding the community's needs. She believes in her students and supports their dreams. Whether adult students are seeking Adult Basic Education (ABE), a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), English Literacy (EL), or farmworker education and services classes, Linda strives to help them seek employment and improve their options in earning a living wage.

This year with Linda's help, MTI has implemented a unique approach to adult education. Classes are now offered in neighborhood school settings so adults can attend with children in the evening. These neighborhood classes emphasize homework help, computer skills, and parental interaction for literacy and learning.

Linda's days are full and rewarding, and this whirlwind extraordinaire is a wonderful asset for MTI and our community.



KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Diversity Strengthens Community

Because of their perseverance, these two students inspire others to reach new levels of education and career preparation.

Jean Claude Renelus. When political unrest threatened his safety, Jean Claude Renelus left his native Haiti seeking a new life in the U.S. He left status and position behind. With a master's degree in civil engineering, fluency in four languages, and a former job as Assistant Director of Haiti's Agricultural Ministry, Jean Claude has much to offer. He enrolled in MTI's adult education program in English Literacy as well as Air Conditioning to help launch his career in Florida. Jean Claude jumped right in and joined SkillsUSA where he brought home the silver medal from the national competition in the Quizbowl event. He also tutors fellow students in math. "Helping is my background," he said, explaining that lending a hand is an important part of Haitian tradition.

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Claudia Guzman Ortiz. When Claudia Guzman Ortiz arrived from Mexico five years ago, she knew that she needed to learn English to be successful. She immediately enrolled in MTI's adult education programs, starting with English Literacy. After completing all six levels, she progressed to the Adult General Education program and followed that up with earning a GED. Determined to continue her education, Claudia recently completed the Certified Nursing Assistant program and plans next to enroll in MTI's Practical Nursing program. She has also completed the US Citizenship Class through MTI's Adult Education program and is proud to be a U.S. citizen.

Thank you, Jean Claude and Claudia, for adding value to our community!

InnoVators
LEARN TO EARN IN ADULT EDUCATION

The adult education classes at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) are for adults of any age, from teens to seniors. Fees and tuition are affordable and some classes are free, depending on the circumstances. Education is a golden ticket to a better paying career, so if you're ready to become a student again MTI is the place to start. Here are a few programs waiting for you:

Adult Basic Education (ABE) and GED Prep. Basic literacy and educational classes can help students prepare to take the *General Educational Development* or GED tests to gain a high school equivalency diploma.

English Literacy (EL) courses include English language studies, consumer education, cultural awareness, family reading/parenting, career planning, and personal development. Adults whose native language is not English can take classes to prepare for the TOEFL—the Test of English as a Foreign Language. Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) helps students learn the language skills necessary to succeed in career courses.

Adult 24-Credit High School. This high school diploma option is for adults 18 or older who have earned at least six high school credits and are also enrolled in a career program at MTI.

New Options Program. This job training program is designed to help separated, divorced, widowed, and spouses of disabled or unemployed individuals to gain career training and assistance. New Options helps adult students overcome barriers to a fulfilling career.

Farmworker Education & Services Program. Targeting migrant workers and their families, this program helps adults learn English and job skills. It provides career training, English classes, GED, job placement, medical services, transportation, child care, and more.

U.S. Citizenship Class. Immigrants who would like to pledge allegiance to the U.S. and become citizens learn about the naturalization process, U.S. history, and the government in preparation for taking the Immigration and Naturalization Services exam.



DISCOVER the Future

Career Pathways in Manatee County

Regional Careers: Here are examples of various occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational	Entry	Average	Exper.
Florida's new minimum wage as of Jan, 2008	\$6.79	-	-
Federal minimum wage	\$5.85	-	-
Farmworkers and Laborers	\$7.85	\$11.06	\$12.66
Medical Assistants	\$10.25	\$12.79	\$14.05
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$15.06	\$18.46	\$20.16
Air Conditioning Mechanics	\$12.42	\$17.21	\$19.61
Welders	\$11.64	\$14.19	\$15.46
Electricians	\$12.63	\$16.98	\$19.15
Community and Social Service Specialists	\$10.21	\$18.68	\$22.92
Vocational Counselors	\$9.15	\$21.05	\$27.00

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

Career Pathway: Students of any age or status desiring a new career and better wages can find many adult programs at Manatee Technical Institute.

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.uscis.gov
- <http://usgovinfo.about.com/blinstst.htm>
- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org/programs/career/adult.html
- www.skillsusa.org

Explore IT

Could You Pass a U.S. Citizenship Exam?

If people from other countries want to become a citizen of the U.S., one of the requirements is passing the Immigration and Naturalization Services exam. Could you pass this exam? How much do you know about our nation and government? Test your smarts with these sample questions.

1. How many branches are there in our government?
2. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
3. Who becomes President of the United States if the president and the vice-president should die?
4. How many representatives are there in Congress?
5. Who has the power to declare war?
6. Who is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?
7. What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?
8. Who is the current governor of your state?
9. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is the economic system in the United States?
11. In what year was the Constitution written?
12. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?
13. Who elects the President of the United States?
14. Which countries were our enemies during World War II?
15. How many Supreme Court justices are there?

Answers
1) three—legislative, executive, judicial; 2) England; 3) The Speaker of the House of Representatives; 4) 435; 5) Congress; 6) The President; 7) Democrat and Republican; 8) Charlie Crist; 9) Thomas Jefferson; 10) Capitols; 11) 1787; 12) Francis Scott Key; 13) The electoral college; 14) Germany, Japan, Italy; 15) nine



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