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



SCHOOL Biz



It's a Terrific Job

MTI's Guidance Counselor Vickie Miller brings years of experience to her job. Vickie worked in student services at the college level for several years before earning her masters degree in counselor education. She then pursued counseling in the public school system and found that working at MTI for the past thirteen years has been a terrific job.

Vicky guides her students through the admissions process and arranges tours and shadow opportunities for those students who are unsure of where their passion lies. She works closely with several of MTI's Career Programs including Criminal Justice, Electricity, Automotive, and Marine Technology classes. Vickie believes, "It is my role to help people realize their life callings which lead to their happiness and fulfillment and thus contributing to a creative and healthy society. I can best facilitate this by providing an atmosphere of love, acceptance, openness and appreciation of diversity."

Vickie also serves as advisor for the Honor Society and is the coordinator of the Director's Recognition Breakfast, a monthly event that recognizes MTT's outstanding students.



Career Pathways in Manatee County

Regional Careers: Here are examples of various occupations and current wages in the Suncoast Workforce Region. Skills for each of these positions can be attained through programs at Manatee Technical Institute.

Occupational	Entry Level	Exper.
Florida's minimum wage	\$6.79	-----
Federal minimum wage	\$5.85	-----
Network system administrator	\$21.49	\$34.11
Dental assistant	\$11.32	\$16.63
Dental hygienist	\$21.31	\$34.62
Electrician	\$12.87	\$19.51
Fire fighter	\$12.30	\$18.16
Culinary - chef & head cook	\$15.49	\$24.24

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 programs at Manatee Technical Institute.

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- <http://humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/Jtypes1.htm>
- <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org
- www.skillsusa.org



Manatee County's Newspaper since 1922

InnoVators

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ?



The pressure to find a good job or career escalates once you graduate from high school. Today's high school career academies are helping students find direction, but many students still struggle with choosing a specific path. Many are unsure of what to do next, conflicted with the desire to pursue their dreams and yet make a good living.

The key lies in finding a balance between something you're good at—something that suits your unique talents and desires—and something that will support you and a future family. Manatee Technical Institute offers a variety of programs that teach the skills needed to propel students on to great career paths. Instead of spending a lot of money on tuition and living expenses for a four-year university, many students choose to take one-year technical and career programs that result in decent-paying jobs.

Maybe you're in the same dilemma and undecided about your next step. So brainstorm! What do you like to do? Are you talented in the kitchen? Take MTT's Culinary Arts course and learn the hands-on art of restaurant cooking. Do you like helping people? Workers in the healthcare field are always in demand, especially nurses. MTI East offers extensive training for aspiring medical assistants, medical billing specialists, dental assistants, EMTs, nurses, and massage therapists. Other fields offered on the MTI campus include business technology, construction, manufacturing, travel and tourism, criminal justice, fire science, and transportation technology—both automotive and marine. Visit MTT's website to learn about even more options.

Don't let pressure overwhelm you; discover where your talent is and make the connection with an in-demand occupation. Maybe it will take a little research, but it will certainly be worth it.



Going "Green"

Michael Witvoet is a senior at Lakewood Ranch High School who also happens to be enrolled at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI). Getting a head start on his career as an electrical or mechanical engineer led him to MTI. He is currently in his second semester and is taking a class in electricity. Michael lives in east Manatee County, and traveling 70 miles round-trip to the MTI main campus has been the impetus for Michael to "go green."

Growing up, Michael was always outside working on cars and tractors. "If it had a motor on it, I was working on it!" he says. Determined to minimize his ecological footprint and save money on gas, Michael explored an alternative fuel. He dedicated a shed on his property and there he recycles used restaurant oil into biodiesel fuel. He then converted his Ford truck from diesel into biodiesel. This process has saved him quite a few dollars per week on gas as well as minimized his eco footprint. His venture is so successful he is taking the idea to the SkillsUSA State and National events where he will compete in the Science, Technology and Math category. Congratulations and good luck Michael!



Find the Career that Fits

People who love their careers say things like, "I don't need a hobby—I love my work!" Unless they're simply workaholics, they've hit upon a secret that too few enjoy: doing what you like and getting paid for it. But to balance the pull between what you like and what pays the bills, it's good to know as much as you can about yourself, careers, and wages too.

- 1. Research yourself.** Try the personality test at <http://humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/Jtypes1.htm> to see what kinds of careers best suit your personality.
- 2. Research careers and wages.** The *Florida Research and Economic Database* offers information on occupational wages and more. To find out how much careers pay in today's market, follow these steps:
 - Go to <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>
 - Click **Occupation**.
 - Click **Occupational Wages**.
 - Click **Occupational Wages by Standard Occupational Classification**.
 - Choose a region. For example, to choose the Bradenton area, choose **A Specific Workforce Development Region** and then choose **Suncoast**.
 - Find occupational wages using either the search field (Option 1) or by selecting from the listed occupational groups (Option 2).

By following these steps, you will see average wages for entry level and experienced workers in a variety of careers. If you can combine work that you enjoy with a career that pays, you'll be on your way to a brighter future.



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