



ACT Adult, Career & Technical Education UPDATE

OPEN THE FUTURE *Manatee County School District*



Haile's VEX Robotics Eighth in the World!

Justin Erickson, Haile Middle School engineering technology teacher and TSA advisor, recently accompanied two robotics teams to join more than 10,000 participants from nearly 20 countries at the intense 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship held at the Anaheim Convention Center. The dramatic event was comprised of the world's brightest middle school, high school and university students, educators and mentors, from nearly 20 countries around the globe.

Haile Middle School engineering students turned heads at the event by finishing eighth in the world. They were recognized by the judges as having one of the most innovative robots in the world at their first ever appearance in the event.

Competing against the top robotics teams from around the globe, Haile had two teams represented at the world championships. In order to receive an invitation to the event, students had to first win a regional competition. Team 1 consisted of Elezar Toney, Parker Whittlock, and Tyler Whitlock, and Team 2, which

competed in the High School Division, consisted of CJ Cooper (Haile) Jake Whitenight (BRHS), and Jacob Robertson (MHS). Parker, Elezar, and Tyler advanced to the quarter finals where they were paired up with a team from Puerto Rico and lost a heart-stopping two out of three match to two teams paired up from China.

The excitement and crowds at the world championships are comparable to a professional sporting event. Students competed in front of thousands of people from around the world in the Anaheim Arena. They use concepts in science, technology, engineering and math to create a robot that places balls and barrels into goals. Each day students were tested in career related areas such as engineering concepts, leadership, teamwork, and communication barriers. This experience gives students a real world global outreach experience that could not otherwise be given inside the classroom.



Photo, top left: Team 1: Elezar Toney, Parker Whittlock, Tyler Whitlock; Team 2: CJ Cooper, Jake Whitenight and Jacob Robertson.



ACT Grants and Funding Continues To Grow

The following is a summary of grant and funding monies applied for and received over the past 11 years from the Adult, Career and Technical Education Department, including areas such as MTI, Take Stock, Transitions, Tech Prep, SLCs, secondary CTE, Manatee Stars, and others. Grant monies are essential to enhancing quality education and moving the District forward in its quest to provide excellent education and opportunities to all of our students.

| Grants and dollar value | Totals |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of grants applied for: | 384 |
| Number of grants approved: | 292 |
| Number of grants pending approval: | 13 |
| Dollars applied for: | \$86,870,302 |
| Dollars approved: | \$63,040,854 |
| Dollars pending approval: | \$4,270,835 |

Top right: Students prepare for robotics face-offs in individual staging areas. Bottom left: Parker and Elezar make adjustments before competing while surrounded by students from other countries. Bottom right: the main stage erupts in pyrotechnics. To see 500+ amazing photos from Vex, visit <http://bit.ly/JrljJP>.

2012: 12th Annual No Teacher Left Behind



This year marks our twelfth annual **No Teacher Left Behind**, our popular summer program where ACT teachers go back to school. Our ACT teachers were surveyed twice during the second semester to narrow down course selections, so this year we are offering the most requested certification training. Our training sessions will include five exciting workshops leading to testing and obtaining industry certifications: Adobe Photoshop Associate, Adobe Dreamweaver Associate, Certified Horticulture Professional, Certified Solidworks Associate, and Certified Internet Web Professional. Some of our trainings will be facilitated by our very own Manatee County teachers and others will be facilitated by experts from outside the district. Our expectation is for every willing teacher to train and achieve his or her desired certification.

Our trainings will be held on June 11–12, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. Teachers are required to attend both days of training to receive credit, certification and non-contracted hourly compensation. Workshops will be held at:

- Dreamweaver: Lakewood Ranch High
- Horticulture: Braden River High
- Solidworks: Lakewood Ranch High
- Photoshop: Braden River High
- Certified Internet Web: Lakewood Ranch High
- Inspiring Elementary Engineering (IE²): Freedom Elementary

FACTE Online Professional Development



Any teachers in need of professional development for certification can get many hours online. One recommendation to find online courses is the Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (FACTE) website at facte.org. The courses are free to Florida career and technical education teachers. These courses are given through the Orange County Public Schools and accepted by Manatee County with a little paperwork. There are many courses throughout the year and range from 12 – 50 hours.



Melissa Gagnon New MHS Administrator



ACT teacher Melissa Gagnon, who assumed the role of DCT on-the-job training (OJT) coordinator and testing coordinator at Lakewood Ranch High, has been promoted to Assistant Principal at Manatee High School. She assumed her new role in February 2012.

While at LRHS, Melissa was instrumental in coordinating hundreds of OJT students over the years helping find them jobs within the community, issuing industry certifications, and

keeping impeccable audit documentation. She was also the advisor for CECF, a career and technical student organization (CTSO) which helps students develop skills and competence for marketing careers, build self-esteem, experience leadership, and practice community service. Melissa was recognized as the first instructor in the history of Manatee County to have a student place first at the National competition!

While in the classroom, in 2008 she investigated and brought to her students state-of-the-art technology known as Interactive Technologies (EASITEACH) which consisted of touch pads and interactive software. In the day it was a big deal! Melissa was eager to teach others across the district how to use this new program. During her last three years at LRHS, she also assumed the role as the school testing coordinator. She helped pilot computer-based testing for the district, as well as trained other county schools in standardized test administration.

Melissa shares this quote with us concerning her experiences within ACT: “I am—and always will be—a vocational teacher. Teaching and being part of the ACT department holds true to my fundamental view on education...*Learning by Doing.*”

While Mrs. Gagnon is now experiencing a much different set of responsibilities, she still holds true to her focus of helping students first, but now weaves in an exciting list of job demands. Congratulations Melissa Gagnon!

Diane Roberts: Making a Difference



(L-R) Nancy Beal, ESE Director, Diane Roberts, and Joe Roberts, ESE Secondary Coordinator

Transitions Specialist Diane Roberts has been making a difference for thousands of students with disabilities in the District’s Transitions program. She has been with the ACT Department for the last seven years, has worked in education in Florida for the last 35 years, and for the last 25 years has

been supporting students and teachers in Manatee County. Just in time before her retirement in June, Diane’s peers at the Division on Career Development and Transition recognized the impact she’s made and honored her with the 2012 Outstanding Educator in Transition Award for “Making A Difference” in supporting the successful transition of persons with disabilities. Diane was presented with her award at the 2012 Visions Conference in Tampa. We applaud her for her success and her exemplary work on behalf of individuals with disabilities in the area of transition.

“Diane has always put the best interests of the students first and worked tirelessly to ensure their success,” said Doug Wagner, Director, Adult, Career and Technical Education. “She is most deserving of this statewide recognition and we are very proud of all that she has done!”

Dianne Perry, Elected



Dr. Dianne Perry has been elected as the West Coast Representative for the Florida Displaced Homemaker Network Association. Dr. Perry is the coordinator for the New Options Displaced Homemaker Program at Manatee Technical Institute. The Association serves Displaced Homemaker Program managers throughout the state. Congratulations!

Ryan Bremner: Career Changes

ACT Harlee Middle School Technology Education teacher Ryan Bremner has accepted a new assignment at the School Support Center working for the Title I department. He has been tasked with creating multimedia and web content for the programs that the department has in place and supporting the technology assisted learning labs also managed by Title I.

“The most difficult part of this job was leaving the classroom,” Ryan says. “I had a great group of kids at Harlee and I miss the competitive spirit of TSA. However, as I said to them, when opportunities come your way, you owe it to yourself to explore them.”

Nathaniel Bostic has taken over Ryan's role as a broadcast communications and communications technology teacher and TSA advisor. Nathaniel has been joined by Joel Kaplan who brings a wealth of knowledge to the Introduction to Technology, TSA, and Robotics classes.

In his new position, Ryan is traveling around the county to the Title I schools to film best practices and teaching strategies in real-world scenarios. These videos will be made into shorts that will be posted on a new website that Ryan is producing alongside the video work. He describes the project like this:

“SDMC Connect! is being designed to deliver relevant teaching tools and strategies to our district staff in a quick and easy to use manner. In addition, I am including a community built section where teachers and staff can instantly share their own projects, ideas and documents with the entire district. It's kind of an ambitious project, but through my work with ACT and the CTSOs over the years where ambition was the expectation, I am confident that we can pull together something great.”

Ryan says that he's extremely grateful for the years spent as a Tech Ed teacher and is incredibly proud of his former students. He is enjoying the challenges of his new assignment, although it might be tough to keep him out of the classroom for long.



Ryan Bremner at his new desk at the School Support Center.

Chef David Arnold Joins SEHS Culinary

The Family and Consumer Science (FACS) program at Southeast High School welcomes new culinary instructor Chef David Arnold. This highly qualified chef holds certifications from the American Culinary Federation as a Certified Executive Chef (CEC) and Lead Accredited Culinary Examiner (ACE).



Chef Arnold has served as executive chef/operator of two restaurants in Florida, one a fine dining steak and seafood restaurant and the other a beach community bakery and diner. His culinary experience spans from opening and operating a large contemporary restaurant in Orlando to operating as general manager of a country club. He has been classically trained by the Le Cordon Bleu culinary school, earning a 4.0 GPA and achieving membership in the Eta Sigma Delta Honor Society. Chef Arnold has been certified by the State of Florida as a Certified Food Manager, by ServeSafe as a course instructor, and by the National Restaurant Association in Cost Control, Supervision, Culinary Arts and Advanced Baking & Pastry.

Chef Arnold frequently appears on local and regional television and radio shows promoting the craft of food preparation and has written numerous articles for newspaper and magazines. For more information, visit www.davidarnoldcec.com.

Gayle Twitty: Retirement

PHS Business Technology teacher Gayle Twitty has worked in the District for 22 years. She has taught at Dixie Hollins High School and Azalea Middle in Pinellas County, as well as Palmetto High School here in Manatee County. She has taught General Business, Typing, Career Exploration, Accounting, Legal Aspects of Business, Entrepreneurship, Business Directed Study, Executive Internship, Business Software Applications, and Administrative Office Assistant. She will miss her students and hopes to continue maintaining the great relationships she has made over the years. She looks forward to spending time with her daughters and future grandchildren, and traveling with her husband who is also retiring this year. She shared a few favorite memories:

- “Students selecting things in my classroom that I no longer wanted and they could keep. One student filled out a tag with his name and placed it on me—he wanted me to stay and teach.”
- “FBLA participating in the annual homecoming parade—business dressed students on the back of a very LARGE military truck.”
- “Attending FBLA nationals in Chicago, Nashville, Anaheim, and Denver. Four students walked across the stage for awards in Nashville.”
- “Project InVEST students receiving scholarships on the state and national level (and being published in the IA-Independent Agent magazine).”

- *“Running into former students who appreciate lessons learned in the classroom.”*
- *“Seeing the accomplishments of former students who keep in touch.”*

Elaine Waldron: Retirement



King Middle School Business Technology teacher Elaine Waldron is retiring after 35 years of teaching. She made a difference at Bradenton Middle, Johnson Middle, and King Middle School where she has taught for the last five years. Elaine has taught language arts, reading, journalism, and business, and while she will miss her colleagues and students, she says she will NOT miss the schedule! Elaine looks forward to

traveling, volunteering, and babysitting her grandchildren.

When asked to share a few memorable moments, Elaine said, “This has gone by in the blink of an eye. That said, there are too many memories to list!” She then offered these two moments:

- *“A student came back to see me after she had finished college and told me because of me, she is a writer/journalist.”*
- *“One of my sixth graders this year— when I asked if anyone would run an errand, he waived his hand so I called on him. He then said, “What’s an errand?”*

Millie Torres: Retirement



Millie Torres is retiring after working in Manatee County for over 20 years, and says she has loved working here. In 1991, she began at Anna Maria Elementary as a cafeteria manager where she implemented many changes including adding a breakfast program. She began teaching Family and Consumer Science in 1994, first at Johnson Middle, then King Middle, and then at

Southeast High School. After another stint at King Middle where she was also the FCCLA Advisor, she took the position as Career Advisor at Palmetto High School supporting the Smaller Learning Communities initiative. She worked extensively with freshmen and sophomores, and also focused on helping juniors and seniors find a career path through Manatee Technical Institute. She made a positive impact on the Latino community in her school as well.

“Millie is a “Gator Mom” through and through, said co-worker Lynda Elkin. “Her whole office was plastered with Gators, and her son Mario was a University of Florida cheerleader.” Now that she is retiring and her son has graduated from UF, Millie looks forward to spending several months each year in Spain.

Susan Lestock: Retirement

Sugg Middle School Family and Consumer Science teacher and FCCLA Advisor Susan Lestock is retiring. Here is a farewell message posted by co-worker Charles Routhier:



“We at Sugg would like to express our joy and sadness over the retirement of Susan Lestock. We have joy because retirement can mean many pleasant things and sadness because we will miss her. I started at Sugg four years ago and Susan was one of the first people I met (as well as being my department head). She helped me through my first couple of “rough” years, sent students to my class to give me food they had prepared (yum), and fought relentlessly for the elective teachers. Thank you for being there for me Susan, and we wish you well.”

Detrick Belvin: New MHS Business Teacher

Detrick Belvin is our new business education instructor at Manatee High School where he will teach Introduction to Information Technology and Web Design. He’s worked in the district for three years but is enjoying his first year as a classroom teacher.

Originally from Sarasota, Mr. Belvin received his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/ Management from Long Island University by way of Eastern Kentucky University where he was a collegiate athlete. Mr. Belvin is also involved in coaching high school sports, and is pursuing his Adobe industry certifications for the business program. He is proud to be part of the Career and Technical Education program at Manatee High and is excited about the assistance he can provide his students in achieving industry certifications.

Jeremy Schiller Joins CTE Team

Jeremy Schiller will replace Melissa Gagnon at Lakewood Ranch (LRHS) overseeing the OJT program there at the school. Jeremy holds a degree in business administration with a concentration in sports management from Florida Southern College. He holds a masters degree in physical education from USF. He spends the majority of his time working to build LRHS’s basketball program. He enjoys spending time visiting his 90 year old grandmother, who lives in Sarasota, his parents who live in Brandon, and friends.



Chefs Earn Certifications

Two chef instructors at Manatee Technical Institute have earned certifications from the American Culinary Federation (ACF). Dana Johnson is now a Certified Executive Pastry Chef and Jamie Gregorich is now a Certified Sous Chef.

Johnson has been teaching at MTI since 2009. Just last year, he wrote the curriculum for the first Baking and Pastry Arts career prep program for tech centers, approved by the Florida Department of Education, which he will begin teaching at MTI next year. Johnson's list of accomplishments after graduating from MTI in 2003 includes cook I at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota and assistant pastry chef at the Longboat Key Club and Resort. He launched his own interactive catering and cooking class business (Savory Scenes) six months ago.

Gregorich teaches the intermediate and advanced students in the MTI Culinary Arts career prep program. She became a celebrity last year as a contestant on FOX television's Hell's Kitchen. Gregorich is also sous chef for Euphemia Haye Restaurant on Longboat Key, where she began working after graduating from MTI in 2007. She has been teaching at MTI since 2008.

With the additional certifications earned by Gregorich and Johnson, MTI's Culinary Arts faculty now boasts four ACF certified chefs. Lead chef instructor, Garry Colpitts, is a Certified Executive Chef. Fundamentals instructor, David Arnold, is a Certified Executive Chef, Accredited Culinary Examiner, and lead evaluator for the ACF.



Chefs Jamie Gregorich and Dana Johnson

Agriscience Teachers Earn Certifications

Florida Farm Bureau's industry certification program was developed as a result of a need within the agricultural industry. Florida Farm Bureau leaders saw that agriculturists



Certified Agricultural Technicians Brett Wheeler, Vanessa Giammanco, and Deb Barry

needed a trusted, reliable credential that could be used when hiring employees. As a result, industry-driven assessments of agricultural career fields have been developed in the form of industry certifications. Each certification reflects a differing agricultural sector and the skills and

competencies necessary for success in that field. The certifications were developed by agriculturists for agriculturists.

Congratulations to agriscience teachers Deb Barry, Vanessa Giammanco, and Brett Wheeler, all from Braden River High School, who join Susan Graham at Lakewood Ranch High School and have passed the exam and achieved their Agricultural Technician certifications!



Harlee: Innovations in Communication

Harlee Middle School is starting a new and innovative middle school academy focusing on technology education—the Communication Technology and Leadership Academy, led by technology teacher Nathaniel Bostic. Enrolled students can expect to learn the principles of design and how to apply them in the realm of graphic design, multimedia, 2D and 3D animation, visual effects, video game design, video production, photography, advertising, and audio engineering. The courses use hands-on, project-based assignments designed to prepare students for real world employment. Software used in this program include Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Premiere Pro, and the Unity Game Engine. Students will gain experience working as a team as well as independently to manage real world scenarios. The goal of the academy is for students to explore their creativity and imagination while becoming proficient in industry standard software leading to industry certification.

Eighth grade students will earn high school course credit for the course Communications Technology which leads perfectly into existing high school CAPE academies at Bayshore High and Southeast High.

The leadership skills learned and displayed through involvement within this academy will be those that will remain with the students for a lifetime. The middle school career academy goals include:

- Provide academy students a rigorous and relevant curriculum leading to increased student achievement;
- Provide eighth grade academy students the opportunity to obtain high school level credits;
- Focus on career preparation through career exploration activities; and
- Raise student aspiration and commitment to their academics.

Harlee's Communication Technology and Leadership Academy is led by (L-R) James Hird, Principal; Carrie Johnson, Assistant Principal; and Nathaniel Bostic, lead academy teacher and technology instructor.



Haile: CAT Academy on the Prowl

New to the 2012–13 school year, Haile Middle School will introduce their new Career Academy of Technology (CAT). This new academy will afford Haile's eighth grade students the opportunity to earn a high school credit in either Engineering Technology I or Introduction to Information Technology. The Engineering Technology students will design and build solutions to address real-world problems by applying electrical, mechanical, and civil engineering principles. The Introduction to Information Technology students will tackle web and game design and development, animation, website development, and exploring computer codes. Students in the CAT Academy will be given the opportunity to obtain industry certifications and become a part of a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) which may lead to district, state and national competitions. Following the completion of eighth grade, students will transition on to high school where they may become an active participant in the already existing CAPE academy.



Haile's Career Academy of Technology (CAT) is under the leadership of lead academy teachers Justin Erickson (left), Pam Platt (right), and Principal Janet Kerley (center).

Sugg Middle Plans Culinary Center

Sugg Principal Sharon Scarbrough jumped on House Bill 1255 this year, which states middle schools will begin working to implement career academies offering eighth grade students the opportunity to earn high school course credit and industry certification. Working hand-in-hand with the ACT Department, Construction Services, and Superintendent Tim McGonegal, Ms. Scarbrough started the ball rolling in late 2011



for the much-needed renovation to Sugg's Family and Consumer Science Department to create a full-blown culinary arts program for students. After submitting a Capital Projects Request and presenting her idea to a school board member, the superintendent and the committee were in full support. Work began to refinish cabinets, replace

The remarkable "before" and "after" photos of Sugg's new culinary lab.

flooring, remove outdated furniture, and purchase new equipment. A fresh coat of paint brightens the lab while the installation of hand washing sinks and new tables and chairs brings the lab into the 21st Century. The lab itself is impressive, but what really makes this culinary lab real and meaningful to students is the curriculum and teaching methodology.

After meeting with instructional leaders from both Manatee High and Southeast High—into which Sugg students feed—a collaborative relationship has been formed. The beauty of the middle school academy is the realization of sending better-prepared students to a high school with an established CAPE Academy. This career path and relationship between the middle and high schools can further a student's career focus with both high school credit and also an earned industry certification. Students can discover in middle school whether this is the career focus they would like to pursue in high school and can gain another opportunity to learn.

The 2012–13 school year will be a planning year for the Sugg culinary center. A lot of work needs to be completed in the development of curriculum, development of public relations materials, applications, purchasing textbooks, establishing an FCCLA Chapter, and lining up industry certifications. With these new changes and modernization of the lab program, 2012–13 promises to be a busy year for teachers and administration and a very rewarding year as well. Sugg plans to open its culinary center in the fall of 2013–14.



SETV Wins Gold Again at SkillsUSA States



Congratulations to the Southeast High School SkillsUSA Broadcast News Production teams! TV production instructor and SkillsUSA advisor Mike Sanders has advised and trained his teams to win the gold for the last six years at States. They also took second place winning the silver medal in Broadcast News Production. Southeast students know how to create a winning news show in a very short time. The first-place team will move on to Nationals and hopefully become the gold medal winners for the third time in three years.

SETV Filmmaker Honored

Mike Sanders, Director of Television for Southeast High School's SETV program, reports that junior Mackenzie Yaryura's feature news piece on bullying was selected and shown at the young filmmakers showcase for the Sarasota Film Festival. The festival transported

Mackenzie Yaryura



her and her family by to the showing and a red carpet welcome. This was quite a prestigious honor and quite a portfolio for this amazing young lady. YourObserver.com reported on the event as follows:

“The Hollywood Nights Student Cinema Showcase featured the filmmakers of tomorrow at Regal Hollywood 20, in a premiere of 11 films written and produced by area teenagers. A jury of New-York-based film industry professionals screened numerous films created by more than 5,000 students. Prior to the Sunday screenings, the producers of the winning films got to walk the red carpet. The film genres ranged from horror to comedy and covered topics from anti-bullying to graduation. It was the first sold-out YouthFEST Showcase in four years.”

TV Production Scholar Makes Her Mark

Graduating senior Amanda Clark has made her mark at Southeast High School, and was recently featured on a My Fox Tampa Bay “Good Day Grad” feature for her accomplishments. Amanda has earned the Lombardi scholarship to the University of Florida, an award based on academic achievement, community service, extracurricular involvement, creativity, leadership, and moral character. Amanda has a shining resume, thanks in part to her involvement with the Southeast High School TV Production program, the Technology Student Association, and the F1 in schools racing competition. Amanda served as the Unitus team manager, winning the coveted F1 In Schools World Championship in Singapore. She also served on the national championship team that won the gold medal in last year’s SkillsUSA competition in the Broadcast News event. After her

stellar career with SETV, Amanda will pursue a future in television production. Congratulations!

Amanda Clark as shown on My Fox Tampa Bay’s “Good Day Grad” feature.



“Giamfest” for MHS TV/Radio Production

MHS TV/radio production and guitar teacher Jason Giacomel’s students put on a concert fundraiser featuring MHS students performing in duos, trios, and full bands. The show closed with an all-star jam by members from local Bradenton acts such as Big Daddy, The Skyway Jumpers, The Burghs, and Katalyst! It was a fun filled, rockin’ night with all

proceeds going to the Manatee High School TV & Radio Production programs. One lucky concert goer won a door prize for the evening, a brand new acoustic guitar donated by official sponsor Sam Ash.



Editor’s note: watch for news of state and national events in the next issue of the ACT Update.

Manatee County Sweeps FFA Districts

Manatee County FFA Chapters placed first in every event at the public speaking FFA District Competition and will send winning students to compete at the State Convention in June in Orlando. Congratulations to these amazing chapters and advisors:

- Braden River High School, advisors Debbie Barry, Vanessa Giammanco, and Brett Wheeler: first place in Parliamentary Procedure Team and Prepared Public Speaking.
- Nolan Middle School, advisor Stefani Heidental: first place in Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, and Land Judging.
- Southeast High School, advisor Mike Buckley: first place in Land Judging.
- Palmetto High School, advisors Mike Ingram and Julie Tillet: first place Tractor Driving.
- Haile Middle School, advisor Karen Ciemniecki: first place in Opening and Closing Ceremonies and Extemporaneous Public Speaking.



Top left: Nolan Middle’s Rebecca Elek and Hailey Barnes are headed to States.

Top right: the BRHS Parliamentary Procedure team.

Bottom right: The HMS officer team competes in the Opening and Closing Ceremony event.

Strawberry Flats Fundraiser

Braden River High School FFA pre-sold 100 flats of fresh Plant City strawberries for a recent fundraiser. The fundraiser not only supported the agriscience program, it was a direct example of a farm-to-table connection.



College-Bound Middle Schoolers



Buffalo Creek Middle School FFA students at the UF Entomology Department.

finished with a discussion on food science. Students reported that the trip was beneficial. It served as a reminder that it is never too early to help students prepare for future college and careers.

Lincoln Floriculture: State Success



Lincoln Middle FFA Floriculture team takes second place in the state! L-R: Sophia Colosia, Jalyne Brown, Jana Elsenheimer, and Rachel Strom.

erred recently to compete at the Pinellas Technical Education Center (pTEC) in St. Petersburg. The Floriculture CDE stimulates interest in the floriculture industry and challenges students in topics such as the identification and care of plants, business situations, safety issues, as well as a hands-on practicum related to the industry. Lincoln FFA sends a shout-out and a thank-you to event sponsors including the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA) and pTEC.

Ag on the Hill Ambassadors

Lincoln Middle FFA members Jackie Berkey, Caitlin Moore, Raven Eldridge, and Jana Elsenheimer, along with FFA advisor Kimberley Lough, spent a "Day on the Hill" recently meeting with Manatee County representatives and



(L-R) Lincoln FFA advisor/instructor Miss Lough, Lincoln FFA ambassadors Raven Eldridge, Jackie Berkey, Caitlin Moore, and Jana Elsenheimer, meet with Senator Nancy Detert.

senators, attending legislative session, and listening directly to Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam share his vision for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. "Ag on the Hill," is an annual event sponsored by the Florida Association of Agricultural Educators, University of Florida Department of Agricultural Education and Communication, and the Florida Department of Education. The Lincoln FFA ambassadors lobbied, sharing their message about the priority of agriscience education funding and the value of career and technical education courses in our public schools today.

BCMS Celebrates National FFA Week

With 110 FFA members and nearly 200 students in agriscience classes, Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS) students recently celebrated National FFA Week with T-shirt theme days and by honoring teachers. Students gave out teacher appreciation cards and prepared breakfast for faculty and staff, making pancakes along with fresh eggs from FFA chickens. BCMS FFA also hosted an open house for parents, students, siblings to come and see all the different projects that they have been working on this year. The final activity was the second annual Ag Day. Over 400 elementary school students from pre-K to first grade visited the BCMS animal lab. The young students experienced seven rotations including small animals, chickens, rabbits, horses, beef heifers, goats, and dairy heifers. 72 FFA members participated in the day's events.



Over 400 elementary school students visited the BCMS animal lab during National FFA Week.

BRHS State Fair Successes

Brett Wheeler, BRHS agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, reports that BRHS FFA members recently competed at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, participating in numerous events. For the second consecutive year, the Livestock Judging Team qualified for the State Livestock Judging contest by posting a top-ten finish (out of 75 teams) at the preliminary contest. The Horse Judging team also turned in a very respectable performance, coming in 18th out of 70 teams.

BRHS FFA had two young ladies—Lizzie King and Courtney Wingate—participate in the Youth Market Swine Show. A total of 225 FFA and 4H members from the entire state of Florida participated in this event. Of those 225, 112 students took part in



State Champion Courtney Wingate

Senior Showmanship. BRHS is proud to announce that Courtney was Champion Senior Showman and Lizzie was Reserve Champion Senior Showman. Courtney represented the swine show in the Champions of Champions competition at the conclusion of the fair. Congratulations!

Manatee County Hosts Agriscience Interns

Kate Horne and Darren Cole, seniors at the University of Florida, recently served as agriscience teacher interns. Kate worked at Braden River High under the direction of agriscience teacher Deb Barry. Darren worked at Southeast High School under the direction of agriscience teacher Mike Buckley. They brought a fresh perspective to the students.



Agriscience interns Kate Horne (left) and Darren Cole.



Editor's note: watch for news of state and national events in the next issue of the ACT Update.

FBLA District Events Held at SCF

More than 500 middle and high school students representing five counties converged on the Bradenton campus of State College of Florida (SCF) recently, when SCF and the Manatee County School District hosted the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District 18 Leadership Conference led by district advisors Bobbi Colson and Cindy Rees. More than 20 middle and high schools from DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee and Sarasota counties competed in a wide variety of business-related contests including Impromptu Speaking, Entrepreneurship, Digital Video, Job Interview, Management Decision Making and more. Winners advanced to the state conference in Orlando.



A packed house at the FBLA Districts. Back row: Bonnie Condor, Lori Kish, Bobbi Colson, Kari Reddish. Seated: Bob Jenkins

Students not competing enjoyed various workshops hosted by Amy

Gallimore Director of Leadership, TRI Leadership Resources; Benjamin Durrance University of South Florida Business and Communications major and District 18 FBLA Alumni; Mauricio E. Garcia Student Development, Seminole State College; Dr. Lee Rangel, D.C., Founder and creator of "Thorassic Park"; and Steve Shenbaum, Founder/Director of game on Nation, LLC

SEHS FBLA Shines at District Competition

Southeast High School's (SEHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter, led by Cindy Rees, broke a chapter record with 17 first place wins, and 30 members qualified to compete at the state level during the District 18 annual conference at the State College of Florida. More than 500 FBLA members attended and competed in the event. Southeast High's Ingrid Onoriode was elected 2012–2013 district president with Jennifer Caba elected as the district vice-president. This past quarter SEHS FBLA was also recognized as the top district chapter based on its community service hours, fundraising events, and club membership drive.



The SEHS FBLA competitors.

BRHS's Tremendous Year at FBLA

Christy Goehring, Braden River High School (BRHS) business education teacher and FBLA adviser, reports that BRHS had a tremendous year at the FBLA District 18 Leadership Conference. BRHS had a total of 62 students compete this year and came home with 33 winners. BRHS FBLA students earned 10 first place, 9 second place, 5 third place, 6 fourth place, and 3 fifth place. This is an outstanding display of leadership!

Many students qualified for state competition in Orlando. The 25 students headed to states participated in a wide variety of events including both performance and written objective testing.

"This year, we had two district officers as well as several chapter officers who earned the opportunity to compete and participate at our state conference," said Christy. "This has been a great year for BRHS FBLA and we are very proud of the motivation of our students. Many of our students will be great business leaders in the future."



Left: Elizabeth Garcia, BRHS FBLA President and District 18 President. Right: the leadership team prepares the medals.

SEHS Business Students Rank in Top 20%



Nineteen Southeast High School students from Cindy Rees' Business and Accounting class and Mr. Kohlmann's Financial Math class ranked in the top 20% of the U.S. Treasury Department's National Financial Capability Challenge. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, the Challenge is a free, voluntary, online series of financial questions for high school students to check their knowledge of earning, spending, saving, borrowing, risk protection, and more.

Over 80,000 U.S. students took the challenge during the month before Tax Day. Students who score in the top 10% nationally are automatically entered in a drawing to receive one of twenty \$1,000 scholarships. Additionally, five \$1,000 scholarships will go to students who score in the top 10% among all students who attend low-income public schools. The 25 schools or organizations associated with those winning students will each receive a \$1,000 grant from a foundation. Drawing results will be released at the end of the year.

Real World Web Designers

Last January, BRHS web design students were asked to create new websites for two newly built local businesses. Instructor Dan Crumpler visited with the prospective clients including Darrin Simone, owner, and Terry Hansen, general manager, to pinpoint what was needed for their prospective sites. Dan presented the idea to the upper classmen in the Web Design classes and selected three of the best student designers to take on the new project.

Immediately after the first meeting, Dan and the students visited the construction site and walked on the bare dirt that would soon be transformed into an upscale restaurant and an ice cream shop. The girls were amazed to think that within just a few months, they would not only create the design for the website but would also be maintaining the site as the menu and signage changed for the businesses.

As an incentive, the general manager gave the students two large banners for the two businesses. The girls proudly hung the Memory Lane Ice Cream and Sweet Shop and The Ranch Grill banners right in front of the classroom. The banners reminded them to make progress on the websites and to visit the location to update the text, photos, video, and audio used on the websites.

The design work went well and the clients were pleased with the progress. Both sites were posted live online with updates



The BRHS professional design team of Chelsea, Cassidy, and Annalise receive their new classroom iPad, along with clients Terry Hansen (left) and Darrin Simone (right).

added weekly to the content. The students also posted links on Facebook and Twitter which greatly expanded the audience for these two businesses which opened on May 1, 2012.

One of the highlights of the project was the morning the clients came to the classroom to share their experience with the design classes. They discussed what businesses are looking for from web designers and how seniors can improve their chances of getting a good job in a tough labor market. To top it off, the clients also presented the design team with a newly released, brand new classroom iPad.

The clients have come up with many new ideas on how to use the student designers' skills. Instead of static signs, they use large flat-screen TVs to post an assortment of menu choices, promotions, and customer spotlights. The students shared about using QR codes on all the business literature to link back to the website and to upcoming special promotions and activities. Before the May 1 grand opening, the students were invited to the VIP celebration and open house, where they enjoyed a wide selection of foods from the extensive menus.

For the design team, three years' classroom experience designing websites was excellent preparation for designing live sites in the real world for a paying customer.

All in the Family Business

Jay (Japheth) Francois, his brother Caleb, and sister Gabryelle are all active in FBLA. Jay, a former student of business technology teacher John LaBelle at Buffalo Creek Middle School (BCMS), now belongs to the Palmetto High School chapter. His siblings are FBLA members at BCMS. Perhaps there's a family business in the future!



BCMS business teacher John LaBelle with former student Jay Francois at the FBLA District Conference.

Relevant Learning and Market Research

Business technology and marketing instructor MaryAnn Kauffman reports that Beall's corporate marketing department conducted focus groups with Braden River High School's business students, asking the teens their opinions about fashion trends for the fall back-to-school buying and advertising campaigns.



BHS business students meet with marketing representatives from Beall's to discuss fashion trends.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE



Note: See FACS article **Sugg Plans New Culinary Center** on Page 6.

LRHS FCCLA Attends State Conference



Laakewood Ranch High School's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Chapter recently attended the State Leadership Conference in Orlando. Twenty students competed in six events bringing back 1 gold medal, 6 silver medals and 1 bronze medal. Eleven students placing first in their event will represent Manatee County at FCCLA National Leadership Conference in July in Orlando.



The LRHS FCCLA contingent at the State Leadership Conference in Orlando.

New Florida FCCLA State Officers

Manatee County is proud to have three students representing us on the FCCLA State Leadership Council: Micaela Figueroa, State President; Briana Nelson-Canty, State Secretary; and Miranda Lim, State Rotative Officer. We are very proud of these young ladies and look forward to them leading our state in 2012–13. Jill Bergeron and Elaine Bowling will continue to serve as District 7 Advisors on the State Leadership Council.



FCCLA state officers Micaela Figueroa, Briana Nelson-Canty, and Miranda Lim.

BRMS: Destination FCCLA

Seventeen members of the Braden River Middle School (BRMS) FCCLA chapter, accompanied by advisor Jill Bergeron, attended the State Conference in Orlando. The theme of the conference was "Destination FCCLA." Students came away from the conference with a sense of a new destination. These members are destined to be great leaders of tomorrow as they learned about real life experiences while competing in various events. Students from BRMS returned with 2 bronze medals, 8 silver medals and 6 gold medals. Hailey Todoroff qualified to compete at the National Conference in Orlando this summer. Her event is Career Investigation. Sanjana Pai qualified as an alternate in Applied Technology.

After returning from the State Conference, students from our chapter began working on our Relay for Life team activities. The theme of our booth was Taylor Swift's Country Craft Fair. This was an all night event and we were able to raise over \$1500 for cancer research. The rewards of this type event are many!



Left: the Relay for Life booth featuring a Taylor Swift Country Craft Fair theme.



Right: the BRMS FCCLA competitors.

Students Teach VPK Engineering

With assistance of a grant from the Beall-Riechmann Foundation, Nancy Acton's Early Childhood Education (ECE) students at Manatee High School are creating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) project lessons to utilize in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) classroom. Activities for the four-year-olds will be focused on the following STEM concepts: Simple Machines, Force and Motion, Transportation, Power and Energy, and Construction / Structures.

George Woodie, Elena Esposito, and Katie Woodruff are reading the VPK children a story about weather stations before they create a model station.



Preschool Students Plant for Culinary Arts

Next fall, Manatee High's Kiddie Kollege Preschool students will create a small vertical garden with a variety of herbs and potted vegetables in the preschool play area. The children will observe plant growth and learn the value of being a productive member of society. The produce will be used by the MHS Culinary Arts program. Early Childhood Education teacher Nancy Acton wrote the grant request, which was approved by the MHS SAC committee, to purchase vertical planting materials. Crystal Culver, a member of the Global Leadership Academy Advisory Board and instructor at Keiser University, approached Keiser about supporting this effort. They graciously donated funds to purchase the needed equipment and materials. Thanks to Crystal and Keiser University! This project offers another great example of cross-curricular activities in the MHS Global Leadership Academy.



FACS Students Join Ethics Conference



Eight students from the MHS Global Leadership Academy, including several Family and Consumer Science (FACS) students, spent the day at the University of Tampa to attend the fourth annual Leadership and Ethics Conference held by the West Point Society. Cindy Son, Daniel Halpern, Noell Nieman, Natasha Amrisma, Mia Strychny, Carlos Hernandez, Melissa Meetze and Maria Vargas along with Colonel Mugford, Mrs. Acton (FACS instructor), and Mr. Brunner attended, joining about 130 Tampa area students and about a dozen current West Point Military Academy Cadets.

The conference started with a keynote speaker and introductions of the cadets. Students broke off into groups, each led by a different West Point Cadet. The groups got to know one another while exploring ethics and values. Scenarios were shared within the group as they discussed what steps they would take and what values were shown or lacking.

The day-long conference ended with each group creating and performing a skit about different ethical situations. These situations included a student-teacher relationship, cheating on the SAT, drunk driving, and others. Prizes were given for the top-three performances. Cindy Son's group won first place; they performed a skit about a student-teacher relationship.

"I had a lot of fun at the conference. My group was able to show our creativeness because our group leader stepped back and let us plan our skit with little inputs from him. He also told us a little what West Point life was like. He didn't hold back from any questions so I think it made the experience better because he was like one of us. All the other students were from Tampa so it was nice meeting and getting to know them." Son said.

Students Pursue CDA Credential

L RHS's Early Childhood Education (ECE) level 4 students are preparing to take the final step in their national industry certification for the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. These 11 students have completed 480 hours of working with children under the age of five, over 120 hours of training, a professional resource file, a parent opinion questionnaire, and a CDA assessment observation. Once all of this work was completed, the students applied for the CDA



Level 4 ECE students gain hands-on experience in the classroom.

through The Council of Professional Recognition. During the next few weeks, they will meet with a council representative who will conduct an interview and administer the Early Childhood Studies Review. This is the first time high school students can be awarded the National CDA Credential. Lakewood Ranch High School and Elaine Bowling, their ECE teacher, are very proud to have all of them as candidates. Good luck to everyone!

HEALTH SCIENCE



MTI HOSA State Victories

Thirty-nine students from Manatee Technical Institute traveled to Jacksonville for the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference recently. They were accompanied by advisors Kimberly Bland, Ronai Krugh, Nancie Yonker, Theresa Scott and Joan Barrese. Thirty-one students returned with gold, silver, and bronze medals and seven students with fourth and fifth place ribbons. MTI entered 23 HOSA contests this year and proudly took first place in 16 of them. Not only did MTI win the most medals and HOSA contests in the state during the 2012 SLC, MTI's HOSA Chapter was recognized as a Centum HOSA Chapter and the largest postsecondary chapter in the state.

New for HOSA this year was a pilot event for Massage Therapy written by MTI's Kimberly Bland and Nancie Yonker. The event successfully launched with eight contestants for its debut year. It will run one more year on the state level as a pilot event and then be opened for national competition in 2014. MTI sent two students to compete in this new pilot event and is proud to announce that an MTI student won the very first gold medal for Massage Therapy.

For the first time in the history of its chapter, MTI entered and won gold over stiff competition in the Public Service Announcement event with a team of students from the Pharmacy Technician Program, Dental Assisting Program, and Medical Assisting Program. They were coached by MTI advisor Kimberly Bland with the help and expertise of Bob Burwell, TV Production teacher from Southeast High School. The 2012 official HOSA topic for the PSA was "Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet." MTI HOSA will be working to air this student project on METV and EDV-TV later this spring.

MTI results at the 2012 HOSA SLC: Gold Medals-Dental Terminology, Knowledge Test Human Growth and Development, Knowledge Test Nutrition, Knowledge



MTI's HOSA competitors win big at States.

Test Pharmacology, Clinical Specialty, Dental Science, Massage Therapy, Medical Assisting, Nursing Assisting, Prepared Speaking, Healthy Lifestyle, Community Awareness, HOSA Bowl (team 1), Medical Reading, Health Education, and Public Service Announcement; Silver Medals: Dental Terminology, Medical Terminology, Knowledge Test Human Growth and Development, Dental Science, Medical Assisting, Researched Persuasive Speaking; Bronze Medal: Sports Medicine; fourth place ribbons: Extemporaneous Health Poster, Extemporaneous Writing; fifth place ribbons: Medical Math, HOSA Bowl (team 2.)

First, second, and third place winners for each event have earned the privilege to compete in the HOSA National Leadership Conference being held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in June.

MHS HOSA State Triumphs

Forty-eight students from Manatee High School attended the Florida HOSA State Leadership Conference in Jacksonville recently. Mackenzie Yaryura won first place in Medical Photography for the second year in a row! The MHS HOSA students took third place in Sports Medicine, third place in Nutrition, fourth place for Extemporaneous Health Poster, fifth place in Vet Assisting, and a team fifth place in Creative Problem Solving. Nine students are all eligible to compete at the



HOSA National Leadership Conference in Orlando in June.

The MHS HOSA team at States.

Nolan HOSA Wins at States

Pam Rahn and Michelle Boculac, health science instructors and Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) advisors at Nolan Middle School, are proud of Nolan students who competed at the HOSA State Leadership Competition in Jacksonville recently. Pam reports that the group definitely had adventures departing and returning, and had a great time. Due to everyone's support of *Pennies for Pasta* and *Stuck for a Buck*, Region 5 placed third in the Penny Wars and earned \$1,500 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund.

The best part of the trip was the experience of competition for students. The students placed in their events as follows:



The Nolan HOSA crew at the State Conference.

Medical Spelling, fifth place; Career Health Display, first, fourth and fifth places; Extemporaneous Health Poster; fourth and fifth places; Creed

Contest, first, second, and third places; Job Seeking Skills; fourth place; Prepared Speaking, fifth place. Congratulations to the Nolan HOSA chapter for your amazing successes!

The "Stuck for a Buck" fundraiser allowed students to tape administrators and teachers to the wall by donating \$1 per two-foot piece of duct tape. Nolan Principal Nancy High volunteered as a "victim"! The students had fun raising money for a great cause.



King HOSA Wins at Districts and States

Twenty-two King Middle School (KMS) competitors under the leadership of advisor Jon Syre attended the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) regional competition at the MTI East Campus in Lakewood Ranch. All 22 KMS competitors placed in the top five of an event, which qualified the entire group for the state competition. This was the first time that every competitor qualified for states. Way to go Crusaders! KMS HOSA students won five gold medals and had a great experience meeting Nolan Middle School students.

At the state competition in Jacksonville, KMS students were very successful with their events, despite a medical emergency with one of their own students. Out of the ten possible middle school events, KMS won state gold in three of them! KMS had nine medalists and 15 top-five finishers. This was the biggest state conference to date for HOSA, with over 2,500 registered members. Great job, KMS!



King Middle School HOSA competitors

LRHS HOSA Successes

Maria Whalen, advisor for the LRHS chapter of Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), reported that seven students competed in the regional competition and all seven advanced to the HOSA state competition. Students earned regional first places in the Community Awareness team and Healthy Lifestyle events; second places in Expository Writing and Medical Photography events; and third places in Human Growth and Development and Veterinary Science events. Congratulations for an outstanding job!



Lakewood Ranch High School HOSA competitors

“We Care Clinic” Serves Area Children

By: Jennifer Pies, MTI Dental Assisting student

Children in the Manatee County school system received dental care through the “We Care Clinic” service-learning project recently, free of charge. MTI dental assisting students provided pediatric teeth polishing, fluoride treatments, radiographs, and oral health screenings to school children under the direct supervision of local dentist Allison O’Brien, DDS.

This project is a collaboration of the MTI Dental Assisting Department and Manatee District school nurses who identified economically disadvantaged school children with limited access to dental care. According to the U.S. Surgeon General’s report on oral health in America, tooth decay is the most chronic, preventable childhood disease. Pain and infection can contribute to attendance problems while interfering with speaking skills, ability to learn, nutrition, and other systemic issues.

The student dental assistants enjoy the real-world scenarios and the ability to give back to their community. Many of the MTI students are active with SkillsUSA, a national nonprofit career and technical student organization for high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled services occupations, including health occupations. Involvement with SkillsUSA allows the students to bring awareness of their community service project to a larger arena. They want to celebrate the generosity of local donors and volunteers that allow underserved children to have healthy, happy smiles.

MTI has been providing this service to the public since April 2009, and plans for the next clinic are being made for early May. For appointment information regarding the “We Care Clinic,” please contact Cheryl Stuart, RN, at McNeal Elementary. Interested donors and volunteer dentists may contact Kimberly Bland, Program Director for MTP’s Dental Assisting Program, at 941-752-8100. Services are provided at MTP’s East Campus at 5520 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard in Bradenton.



MTI dental assisting students Dixy Aveleira (left) and Cindi Sparks use the skills they are learning in class to provide a coronal polish and fluoride treatment to a young patient during the “We Care” Dental Project.

Ambulance Facelift

Jay Bush, EMS Program Director and MTI instructor, reports that the program’s ambulance has been blessed with a facelift, thanks to EMS instructor Keith Lock, his son Cameron, and several EMS students. Keith, Cameron, and the other students volunteered to add new striping and give the ambulance a thorough detail including hand waxing.

The instructors use the ambulance to give EMS and paramedic students realistic, hands-on experience in providing patient care in a moving vehicle. Students start IVs and handle mock

cardiac arrests using mannequins and a high-tech human patient simulator. By using such realistic scenarios, MTI graduates are fully prepared to enter the workforce with the skills needed to succeed.



MTI’s revamped ambulance.

Medical Academy Assists Disaster Drill

Thirty-six Manatee High School (MHS) Medical Academy students participated in a regional disaster drill at the Manatee County Administration Center recently. Participants included members of Manatee County Emergency Medical Service, Emergency Management, the City of Bradenton Fire Department, and Urban Search and Rescue teams. The first responders rescued 25 “victims” experiencing a simulated tornado. One of the coordinators of the drill sent a note to Academy leader Laura Sollenberger that reads as follows:

“Your students were a great asset to our Region 6 training exercise. We have never conducted training in this fashion, and your students brought some real victims/patient to allow EMS to work with. They all were very pleasant to work with and respectful to all that participated. This training was being planned over the course of the year and your assistance was of great value to all of us.”



Paramedics tag MHS Medical Academy students in a triage area during the disaster drill.

Career Shadowing at MMH

Seventy four MHS Medical Academy students were recently invited to observe professionals at Manatee Memorial Hospital (MMH). The students experienced numerous areas of the hospital including the Emergency Room, Cardiac Cath Lab, Radiology, Lab, NICU, Labor and Delivery, and many other areas. Some comments from the students included:

- “It was a good day and I learned a lot.”
- “I thought it was interesting because I had not even heard of the jobs in the lab.”
- “Had a great time, met a lot of interesting people, everyone was very helpful.”
- “This was a great experience. From learning and observing, I gained a lot of knowledge.”

Medical Academy Noteworthy Numbers

MHS Medical Academy instructor Laura Sollenberger reports these interesting facts:

- 68 seniors recently took the Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA) exam, provided by the National Health-career Association (NHA). Passing students will earn this valuable career certification, which, according to the NHA, offers increased subject matter expertise, more job opportunities, and a higher pay scale.



- 134 incoming ninth graders have been accepted to the MHS Medical Academy for next year. As of this publication, 176 students have applied and applications are still coming in.

(R-L) MTI Dental Assisting Program Director Kim Bland and MHS Medical Academy lead instructor Laura Sollenberger.



Manatee County TSA Trounces at States



The Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference held recently in Amelia Island welcomed over 1,000 middle and high school students (out of the over 20,000 Florida TSA Members) who competed in 68 events. Upholding a long-standing reputation, Manatee County enjoyed fabulous results and won more trophies and top-ten finishes than any other school district in all of Florida. Our students also won more first, second, and third-place trophies than all of the other districts combined together.

This is an amazing accomplishment and one that shows just how hard our teachers and students are working. Many of our teachers and students worked tirelessly over the weekends and after school hours in the months leading up to the State Conference and many will be working on the national events that will take place this summer.

High School Results:

- Southeast High led by Bob Burwell and Irene Nikitopoulos: 34 top-ten student wins including 16 gold medals, 6 silver, and 2 bronze
- Braden River High led by Gil Burlew, Richard Platt, John Frank, and Bill Ferrell: 37 top-ten student wins including 9 gold medals, 7 silver, and 7 bronze
- Lakewood Ranch High led by Greg McGrew and Quintin Jones: 27 top-ten student wins including 1 gold medal, 5 silver, and 2 bronze
- Bayshore High led by Martha Proulx, Charles Heister, and David Sheppard: 20 top-ten student wins including 1 silver and 3 bronze
- Manatee High led by Joe Orr and Patty Harris: 14 top-ten student wins including 1 gold medal, 1 silver, and 1 bronze

Middle School Results:

- Nolan Middle led by Justin and Theresa Devine: 37 top-ten student wins including 17 gold medals, 2 silver, and 5 bronze
- Johnson Middle led by Hollis Bostic and Suzanne Jarrell: 20 top-ten student wins including 1 gold medal, 2 silver, and 7 bronze
- Haile Middle led by Justin Erickson and Pam Platt: 22 top-ten student wins including 2 gold medals, 4 silver, and 1 bronze
- Sugg Middle led by Kyle Holbrook and Charles Routhier: 19 top-ten student wins including 2 gold medals
- Braden River Middle led by Kirsten Lawlor: 7 top-ten student wins
- Harlee Middle led by Nathaniel Bostic and Joel Kaplin: 5 top-ten student wins
- Lincoln Middle James Duffey: 3 top-ten student wins including 1 bronze
- Buffalo Creek Middle led by Maddy Ross and John LaBelle: 1 top-ten win

See next page for totals...



FBA Attends International Builders Show

Nearly 50 Manatee County Future Builders of America (FBA) students joined over 51,000 building industry professionals who attended the 2012 National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) International Builders' Show in Orlando. Hundreds of exhibitors displayed the latest products, services, and trends in the industry. Professionals involved in residential or light commercial construction industries such as home builders, remodelers, and Realtors® attended, along with a large contingent of construction technology students and FBA advisors. Students from Southeast High School, Manatee High School, Palmetto High School, and Manatee Technical Institute attended, joined by additional FBA students from Sarasota and North Port. FBA advisors Ray Weiland, Jeff Sharp, James Kapper, Robert Lounds, and John Kenney accompanied their students.



Manatee County FBA students visit the International Builders' Show in Orlando.

Manatee County TSA Totals: 246 top-ten student wins including 49 gold medals, 28 silver, and 29 bronze. Manatee County also swept the overall rankings with Southeast taking first, Braden River taking second, and Lakewood Ranch taking third. For the middle school division, Nolan took first and Johnson took third. What an amazing performance, and good luck at Nationals! For additional photos, visit www.floridatsa.com and click the link to the Amelia Island Conference photos.



L-R above: Martha Proulx and David Sheppard; trophies-in-waiting.



Above: Justin Devine and one of his tech-smart students. Right: a rainbow of dragsters preparing to race.



Robotics gurus make adjustments.



Charles Routhier and students.

Elementary Engineering Students Compete in Water Tower Challenge

What a great day it was! Freedom Elementary hosted the first American Works Water Association (AWWA) Elementary Water Tower Competition in April. Elementary technology education teachers Elvita Phelen, Michelle Tona, Debbie Smith, Michele Jones, Denise Touchberry, and Laura Jones accompanied over 100 fifth-grade students to the event. As the students entered the cafeteria, a buzz could be heard around the room directed at all the cool water towers sitting on stage. “Wow, look at that one!” “How did they do that?” “What a great idea!” could be heard

as each group speculated which ones would win. As the day went on, judges scored towers and narrowed down the field. Judges looked at several criteria: use of recyclable materials, height, weight, leaks, lids, footprint size, and creativity. Students had an opportunity to visit a variety of water stations to learn about how precious our water supply is to humans and the environment, along with having a chance to make water cycle bracelets and compete in mini contests at the penny drop and aluminum boat stations.

While the towers were being judged for their design ingenuity by the staff of the AWWA, teams of students participated in a challenge in which they had to build a table at least two inches off the ground which would hold the most weight using only five sheets of paper and two feet of tape. Who knew a paper table could be strong enough to hold 13 books!

Our elementary Technology Student Association (TSA) teams gained so much confidence and knowledge by participating in this competition that they can't wait to apply their newly acquired water tower skills at the middle and high school levels in future competitions. Their enthusiasm was definitely contagious, and what a great day it was!

By the Numbers:

- 6 participating elementary schools: Abel, Prine, Kinnan, Braden River, McNeal, and Freedom
- 101 fifth grade TSA members
- 37 parent volunteers
- 34 water towers
- 100% student engagement and learning
- 100% FUN!

Right: Denise Touchberry's students Justin Resnick and Brandon Schwartz won first place in the "most creative" category



Left: Freedom Elementary was filled with fifth grade future scientists and engineers.

The line-up of innovative water towers, engineered by fifth-grade students.



Cheryl McGrew Publishes Tech Article



Cheryl McGrew published article in *Technology and Engineering Teacher* journal.

The ACT Department congratulates Sea Breeze Elementary School Assistant Principal and former McNeal Elementary School engineering teacher Cheryl McGrew for publishing an article in the March 2012 issue of the *Technology and Engineering Teacher* journal. Her peer-reviewed article titled “Engineering at the Elementary Level” details Cheryl’s pathway to writing and successfully implementing a technology-based curriculum for K-6th grade students.

The article begins with the intriguing question, “Can engineering technology be taught at the elementary level?” Cheryl then describes in step-by-step detail the research, writing, and fascinating hands-on implementation of a Science-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM) program that powerfully

supports core curriculum while integrating engineering-based problem-solving strategies. From designing a Cat-in-the-Hat style cleaning machine to building a tomato-launching trebuchet (think medieval history plus physics), the article opens wide the doors to challenging our youngest students and equipping them with 21st century skills. Well done!

National ITEEA “High School Program of Excellence” Award

The Executive Board of the Florida Technology Education and Engineering Educators Association notified three Braden River High School (BRHS) teachers that the BRHS engineering technology program has been awarded the “2012 International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) High School Program of Excellence.” This award is the highest honor a technology education teacher can receive in the profession. Engineering technology teachers Gil Burlew, Richard Platt, and John Frank



Manatee County engineering technology teachers Richard Platt, Gil Burlew, and John Frank were awarded the ITEEA “High School Program of Excellence Award” at the ITEEA annual conference in Long Beach, California.

were awarded the recognition.

“Your commitment to the students and the commendable efforts you have made in creating a new and unique program are to be applauded. Florida Technology Education students need teachers like yourself and the programs you have developed,” wrote Thomas Cummings, the ITEEA Florida Affiliate Representative.

The teachers, BRHS, and Manatee County were recognized nationally and presented with a walnut engraved plaque at the ITEEA 74th Annual Conference in Long Beach, California recently. State recognition will take place at the Florida Technology Education and Engineering Educators Association Annual Conference in November.

Elementary Engineers Build, Explore

McNeal Elementary’s Inspiring Elementary Engineering (IE2) teacher Denise Touchberry reports that fifth grader Connor Rosenberg entered his toothpick bridge at the GWIZ bridge building contest recently. There were entries from Manatee and Sarasota Counties in the elementary, middle, and high school categories. Connor’s bridge withstood 8 pounds. This hardworking young man put in many hours planning, drawing and building his bridge. Great job!

IE2 fifth grader Cesar Sandelis and his brother attended a recent University of South Florida (USF) Engineering Expo. The students participated in many exhibits and activities. USF Engineering students along with many local companies such as Raytheon, Progress Energy, Tampa Electric, Lockheed Martin and more, showcased their exhibits. It was a full, fun day at USF!



(Left) Denise Touchberry with bridge builder Connor Rosenberg and (right) with fifth grader Cesar Sandelis and his brother at the Engineering Expo.

SCF SPACE Club Donates Rocket to Harlee

State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota (SCF) Students Promoting Astronomy, Cosmology & Exploration of Space (SPACE) Club recently presented a Saturn V scale model rocket to Harlee Middle School students.

During the presentation, David Barnes, SPACE Club adviser and SCF natural sciences adjunct instructor, and SCF students discussed the model rocket, the history of Saturn V, and the future of the U.S. space program to students in the

Introduction to Technology class taught by Harlee Technical Education teacher Joel Kaplan.

Made of foam board and card stock, the eight-foot rocket was constructed by 25 SCF students in three weeks. SCF students donated the rocket as an outreach project for the SPACE Club in an effort to encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

“Building a rocket is a fun way to get students excited about STEM and motivate them to apply these concepts when they work on their own projects,” Barnes said.

As a magnet school that emphasizes engineering technology, Harlee Middle School is the right fit for the rocket donation. Kaplan, who received the rocket for use in his classroom, is a 36-year veteran teacher with additional experience training teachers in rocketry.

“The rocket is a great asset to our classroom, and it has arrived in time for us to begin studying rocketry as part of the curriculum next month,” said Kaplan.

SCF students attending the presentation included SPACE Club President Ashley Hinkle and members Kelby Fischer, Jerome Glover, Irma Drndar, Allyson Wooster, Doug Miller, Brandon Ashlee Higbee, Alicia Hoff and Bradley Hagerman.



Back row: SCF SPACE Club Adviser David Barnes, SCF SPACE Club President Ashley Hinkle, Harlee Technology Teacher Joel Kaplan with Harlee Middle School students Charneycar Casimir (front row) Luis Jimenez, Patrick Brady, Leo Lastre and Abigail Espinal.

BRHS Pirate Racing Team Captures 2nd at USA F1 In Schools National Finals

Four students from Braden River High School have finished second at the Formula One in Schools National Championships at Michigan International Speedway. The finish qualifies the team to attend the F1 In Schools World Finals this Fall at a country to be announced in the next few weeks. Pirate Racing also won the award for Best Portfolio.

“This has been an incredible experience for our team. We have worked so hard and coming up here to Michigan and competing against such great teams has made all of our work well worth the effort”, stated Kali Hoying, Pirate Racing Team Manager.

Pirate Racing has competed in F1 in Schools for the past four years. Members of the team include Kali Hoying, Team

(L-R) Pirate Racing Team at the F1 In Schools USA Finals at Michigan International Speedway. Aly Cote, Manufacturing Engineer; Mario Palmer, Graphic Designer; Kali Hoying, Team Manager; Jeremy Petty, Design Engineer.



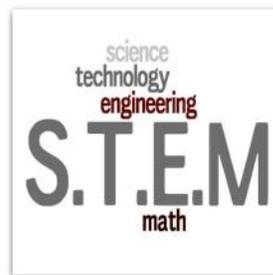
Manager; Jeremy Petty, Design Engineer; Mario Palmer, Graphic Designer; and Aly Cote, Manufacturing Engineer. Funding for the team was provided by Boca Bearing, Sun Hydraulics, Mileo Group and JTBN Plastics.

Students must design and built identical CO₂ powered balsa cars using computer aided design and CNC mills, deliver a 10-minute verbal presentation, and design a 20-page portfolio and pit display.

F1 in Schools is a worldwide, multidisciplinary challenge for students aged 9–19. It is the largest global educational initiative promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the world operating in 40 countries. More than 20,000 students have participated in the competition in the last twelve years.

F1 in Schools is managed in the USA by SAE International, a global association of more than 133,000 engineers and related technical experts in the aerospace, automotive and commercial vehicle industries.

STEM Education Critical for Florida’s Future



Al Stimac, board president of the Manufacturers Association of Florida recently wrote a guest post in the Orlando Sentinel about the critical importance of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in education as it relates to jobs in Florida. Here is an excerpt:

“A study conducted last year on behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Florida concluded that adding 10,000 manufacturing jobs in South Florida would yield a cumulative 24,000 jobs in the same area. Infrastructure improvements, combined with business-friendly tax codes, will create the perfect opportunity for manufacturers to move into the Sunshine State.

Unfortunately, many manufacturers in Florida are complaining that there simply aren't enough employees trained in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields graduating from our schools. Education is the most important component in closing the gap between the needs of manufacturers and a skilled workforce in Florida.”

For the entire article, see <http://thesent.nl/Ko84TW>.

INDUSTRIAL

MTI Wins Most Medals in State SkillsUSA

Manatee Technical Institute (MTI) won 130 medals at the 2012 Florida SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference, which was held in Pensacola in May. An awards ceremony for the MTI winners was held in Leatherman Auditorium on the MTI Main Campus, as the students had to leave Pensacola prior to the awards ceremony.

MTI students won 75 gold medals at the 45th Annual Conference. The gold medalists, as well as other qualifying students from MTI, will advance to the national championships being held in Kansas City, Missouri, in June. They will represent MTI and the State of Florida and compete for the national title in their skill or leadership area.

Students from high schools, technical centers and colleges from across the state competed in the skills and leadership contests. Each contest had two divisions (high school and college/postsecondary); some were team events.

The SkillsUSA contests are the most important opportunity students have to compete against their peers and demonstrate their skills. For the past eight years, MTI has exceeded all other schools by winning the most medals in the nation. SkillsUSA is an international organization that promotes excellence, employability skills, and ethics to students in career and technical education to better prepare them for successful careers.

Manatee County SkillsUSA Leaders

Manatee County came home from the state competition with two new elected state officers for the school year 2012–2013. During the previous year, Bayshore High School was represented by three state officers. This year we are proud to announce that BHS tenth-grader Ruby Uzzell has been elected the Florida SkillsUSA Parliamentarian and Southeast High School's Justin Rifner was selected as the State Technology Coordinator. Their duties will require them to attend Officer Training in July for one week. The State officers

plan and execute the State Leadership Training Workshop in Haines City in October.

L-R: Ruby Ezell (BHS), Florida SkillsUSA Parliamentarian and Justin Rifner (SEHS), State Technology Coordinator.



Left: Pensacola welcomes the Florida SkillsUSA competition.



Above: welding and electrical knowledge were just a fraction of the skills tested at SkillsUSA



Left and below: a huge turnout at the Pensacola event.





Note: see Page 6 for news on the Southeast High School SkillsUSA winners in Television Production.

BHS SkillsUSA State Success

Bayshore High School SkillsUSA students, under the leadership of BHS business technology instructor and SkillsUSA advisor MaryAnn Kauffman, returned from Pensacola and the State SkillsUSA competition with 13 gold medals, 1 silver, and 7 bronze (including team events), and the distinct achievement that every member who attended placed in the top three! These winners are heading to the National SkillsUSA competitions this summer to vie for tops in the nation. Gold medal wins included Tech-Prep Showcase Finance; Tech-Prep Showcase Arts, Audio-Visual Communications; Tech-Prep Showcase Information Technology; Tech



The proud Bayshore High School SkillsUSA state competitors.

Prep Showcase Science, Technology and Math; and Photography. The silver medal win was in Prepared Speech, and the bronze medal wins included Job Skills Demonstration and Quiz Bowl. In the Quiz Bowl event, the team was first in round one, first in round two, tied in round three, and lost in a sudden death by only two points! Congratulations for a job well done!

MHS SkillsUSA State Winners

Under the supervision of Advisor Suzette Marquette, the Manatee High School SkillsUSA contingent brought home the gold medal in the SkillsUSA Quiz Bowl Competition. They beat 15 other teams to earn first place in the state. The competition went down to the fourth round and three remaining teams were tied. The judges were forced into a “sudden death” situation where the first team to earn two points won. Bayshore High School was neck-in-neck and lost to Manatee by two points. MHS took first place in the Health Knowledge Bowl event and first place in the Job Interview event, and also competed in the Action Skills, Job Demonstration, and Food and Beverage Service events. Congratulations for being first-time state winners and earning a record ten gold medals!

BHS SkillsUSA Shines at Regionals

Bayshore’s SkillsUSA students, under the leadership of advisor MaryAnn Kauffman, proved they were up to the task of being WINNERS! After working hard preparing for their events in the SkillsUSA Region 6 Competition, BHS students swept the floor by winning GOLD MEDALS at several competitions held at Port Charlotte Tech Center.

First place gold medal wins included Quiz Bowl, Prepared Speech, Outstanding Chapter Notebook, Job Skill Demonstration, Tech Prep Showcase - Business, Management



The Bayshore High School SkillsUSA regional competitors.

and Administration; Tech Prep Showcase - Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Tech Prep Showcase – Information Technology; and Tech Prep Showcase – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). BHS SkillsUSA students also earned fourth place in Job Skill Demonstration. At the Skills Day held at Sarasota Technical Institute, BHS SkillsUSA students took first, second, and third in the Photography competition. Congratulations!

MTI Wins SkillsUSA Regionals

Manatee Technical Institute students had great success at the Region 6 Florida SkillsUSA competitions held in the spring. The leadership contests were held at Charlotte Technical Center and the skills contests were held at Sarasota County Technical Institute, Charlotte Tech Center, Manatee Technical Institute, and Lee High Tech Center Central. With 66 medals, MTI once again won more medals than any other school in the region.

The Manatee Tech students garnered 27 Gold, 24 Silver, and 15 Bronze medals. At the competition, a total of 605 students participated in 55 different contests. MTI had 180 participants competing in 41 of those contests.

In several exciting competitions, MTI students made clean sweeps with first, second, and third place wins including the Automotive Service Technology competition and the high school level Action Skills contest. MTI students also made clean sweeps in high school Cabinetmaking, Marine Service Technology and Welding. The first and second place winners in all contest categories advanced to the state competitions in Pensacola in early May.



Cosmetology Students Prep “Cinderellas”

For the third year, the MTI Cosmetology program teamed up with the Manatee Education Foundation to support the Prince Charming and Cinderella Project. MTI SkillsUSA students performed complimentary haircuts, hair styling, manicures, pedicures, facials, and makeup application to qualifying local high school prom goers.

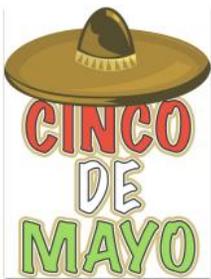
“The Manatee Education Foundation is pleased to have the partnership of many community organizations and local businesses with the Prince Charming & Cinderella Project. This program would simply not be



possible without these dedicated partners. The relationship with the MTI Cosmetology Department is particularly meaningful as many of the MTI students are former Manatee County high school students. It sets a great example for our young people to see the MTI students giving back to their community,” said Tricia McKay Powers, Director of Development for the foundation.

MTI Cosmetology instructor Judy Millard agreed. “I believe anytime you can get young people involved with doing something for someone else, it’s a positive. This project is a win-win situation for everyone,” said Millard.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration



The Farmworker Education and Services Program, the Latino community, and Manatee Technical Institute were proud to present the Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 5th at the MTI North campus located at 801 Ninth Street West in Palmetto. The celebration was combined with an MTI North Open

House as a unique experience to showcase our cultures, give the public the opportunity to enjoy a tour of the new MTI North campus facilities, and learn more about career opportunities.

The purpose of the festival was to celebrate the cultural diversity in our community, the 47th anniversary of the Farmworker Education Program in Manatee County, and to raise money for the Farmworker Emergency and Scholarship Fund. This fund is used to support farm worker families in crisis situations to provide them with food, shelter, and health services and to provide scholarships for our students.

This free event was open to the public, who enjoyed a live Latin music band, folkloric dancers, and various vendors offering ethnic food.

National Technical Honor Society Inductees

Manatee Technical Institute inducted 165 students into the National Technical Honor Society recently in the Bayshore High School Gymnasium. Induction into the honor society is one of America’s highest awards for excellence in career and technical education.

The 165 represent the top tier of students currently enrolled in postsecondary career-preparation programs at MTI. They were nominated by their instructors for their skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship and leadership.

During opening remarks, Manatee County School Board Member Barbara Harvey acknowledged the students for their commitment to their studies and their families for the sacrifices they made to support them during their time in school.

MTI guidance counselor and NTHS advisor Vickie Miller led the ceremony assisted by career counselors Terri Parrish, Kristal Holmes, Ronai Krugh and Kathy Matthews.



165 Honor Society inductees celebrated their successes.

Doug Wagner, Director of Adult, Career and Technical Education, joined Ms. Harvey; MTI Assistant Directors Dr. Priscilla Haflich, Sue Downs and Linda Agresta; and individual program instructors in congratulating each student as they were inducted into the lifelong membership honor society with lifelong membership.

The ceremony concluded with students reciting the pledge of membership in unison. In closing remarks, Mr. Wagner quoted Walt Disney: “All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them.” He drew a parallel between Disney and the students as “working hard and never giving up” and encouraged the students to “never stop dreaming, because as you see tonight, dreams do come true.”

National Adult Education Honor Society

Nineteen students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society at Manatee Technical Institute recently. Family members, friends and instructors pinned the students with the official honor society pin. School Board members Karen Carpenter, Julie Aranibar and Barbara Harvey congratulated each.

In his remarks to the students, superintendent of schools Dr. Tim McGonegal congratulated them on their commitment to lifelong learning, “In this society and today’s economy, you must be a lifelong learner to flourish. Congratulations on this step of your journey.”

The Manatee Adult Education program serves over 1,600 students. The ones chosen for this honor were in the top one percent of their class. Most have overcome great obstacles to go to school as adults.

Tears were flowing as Linda Agresta disclosed that one student had learned she had multiple sclerosis, and an impassioned father expressed his gratitude to MTI for accepting his son when he arrived from Spain and needed to learn English.

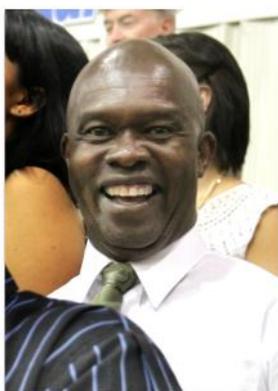


Nineteen adult education students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society at MTI.

Board member Karen Carpenter made opening and closing remarks. Linda Agresta read the nominations. Counselors Irina Zimmerman and Ernie Bishop awarded each of them their certificates. Bishop is the faculty sponsor for the honor society at MTI.

The MTI Chapter is one of only nine chapters in the state of Florida. About half the inductees are working towards their GEDs, and the other half are learning English as a second language. The chapter is named the Lee Carter Brown Chapter after the deceased daughter of Suzanne Paul, the retired coordinator of the MTI adult education program. Carter-Brown was a strong advocate of literacy programs.

Student Wins Honor Society Scholarship



Oliver Freeman received a \$1,000 National Technical Honor Society scholarship.

Oliver Freeman, a Business Technology student at Manatee Technical Institute, has been selected as a recipient of a \$1,000 National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) 2012 Jon H. Poteat Scholarship. Freeman is one of only two students in the state of Florida to receive the award. He was recognized at the SkillsUSA Awards Ceremony in the Leatherman Auditorium at MTI's Main Campus in May.

The scholarships, named in honor and memory of the co-founder of the Society, are awarded annually to student NTHS members who consistently exemplify the seven character attributes of the honor society: Skill, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship, and Leadership.

NTHS awards an increasing number of scholarships each year to its members. This year, one hundred \$1,000 Jon H. Poteat Scholarships were awarded. After being vetted, scholarship applications from across the country were selected.

Adult Ed Launches CASAS eTEST

CASAS—Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems—is the most widely used system for assessing adult basic reading, math, listening, writing, and speaking skills throughout the United States. CASAS assessment system is used at MTI to help students in adult literacy education, GED preparation, or English as a Second Language discover their proper skill placement level.

Aleyda Fuentez and Manuel Montoya-Romero from Ms. Judy Whitaker's ESOL-Advanced class were the first two students to take the newly implemented CASAS eTEST online in MTI's AdultED Testing Lab. Mr. Bill Gaynor implemented this system for Assistant Director Linda Agresta with a target

date to go live in April for the 4th quarter.

Aleyda and Manuel said they "...loved the CASAS online environment and interface, and felt it was a great improvement over the paper bubble-sheet version." These students found the Listening test more challenging than the older, bubble version because of the Life and Workforce skills questions. The biggest surprise was the pace for answering the questions. Both students liked being able to use the Training Server for practice questions, and especially being able to instantly see their results.

Aleyda thought that being able to practice in the lab would help new students become more comfortable with computer technology and help prepare them to use PCs on the job in the future.

Installing the CASAS eTEST at MTI fulfills an objective Ms. Agresta had to make our AdultED program more streamlined and in tune with the demands MTI ESOL students would face in the 21st Century Workforce. MTI is only the second Tech Center to launch the eTEST in Florida, and Miami-Dade county is experimenting with this resource.



MTI Assistant Director Linda Agresta reviews the eTests.



Law Enforcement Students Host 5K Run

Manatee Technical Institute law enforcement students hosted the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run 5K, a community service project benefitting the Special Olympics. This year's venue was held at the MTI East Campus in Lakewood Ranch. The students, all members of SkillsUSA, planned every detail of the event. Over 250 runners participated, cheered along by more than 100 spectators watching from the Lakewood Ranch campus course.

Emily Perez, 15, placed first in the female category with a time of 20:12, and Matthew McFall, 17, placed first in the male category with a time of 16:56.



The Law Enforcement Torch Run was held at the MTI East Campus.

For more information, contact Pat Proudler at: proudlerp@manateeschools.net or 751-8479, Ext. 2015.

Students “Sock it to the Troops”

MTI’s cosmetology SkillsUSA students collected donations for operation “Sock it to the Troops.” The students asked for help from the community in their endeavor to support the troops while they are away from home. The department collected new socks in black, tan, or grey and then presented the socks to the Blue Star Mothers organization.

Cosmetology students Tamara Montgomery and Erin Deans met with Susan Chandler, founder and president of the Southwest Florida Chapter of Blue Star Mothers, to spearhead this SkillsUSA project. Blue Star Mothers is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization that supports children in the military and promotes patriotism.

This is the first year for the cosmetology students to be involved in the project. Over 85 students worked on collecting donations and would like to make this a new tradition. “We love to help out with the troops,” said Judy Millard, MTI Cosmetology instructor.



MTI Cosmetology student Tamara Montgomery presents 88 pairs of socks collected for the “Sock it to the Troops” project to Susan Chandler, founder and president of the Southwest Florida Chapter of Blue Star Mothers.

Student project leader Montgomery said, “I believe that God will supply all our needs. The troops are supplying our needs by fighting for our country, so we want to do this for them.”

MTI Alumni Open Houses

The new association for alumni of the Manatee Technical Institute held two open houses at the Main and East campuses recently. The group’s purpose is to provide a voice to MTI graduates, offer training in job interview skills, and build a scholarship fund. To learn more about the MTI Alumni Association, visit www.mtialumniassociation.org, call 941-751-7900, or email MTIalum@manateeschools.net.



MTI AA Membership Committee Chair Kim Bland, left, describes benefits of membership to new members.

Congressman Vern Buchanan Tours MTI

The Congressman for Florida’s 13th congressional district, Vern Buchanan, made a stop at Manatee Technical Institute recently to talk about jobs and education. He visited the machining program, HVAC, welding, automotive and culinary arts. He asked many questions and learned a lot about the great job MTI is doing by putting people to work with skills for success. MTI’s Culinary Arts Department did what they do best and served a fantastic lunch for the Congressman.

Congressman Vern Buchanan talks with MTI Assistant Director Sue Downs and Director Mary Cantrell in the machining program building on a recent tour of MTI.



Chef instructors Jamie Gregorich and Mark Keckstein put finishing touches on salads prepared and served by students when the Congressman stayed for lunch.



Making Progress! New MTI Campus

We’re excited about the great progress we’re seeing every day on the brand new Manatee Technical Institute campus on State Road 70 and Caruso Road. The building is tentatively scheduled for completion in early winter and we are scheduled to start classes there in January 2013.



The new MTI campus will be open to the public in January 2013.

Prohibition of Discrimination. Any person who believes he/she has been discriminated against or has been harassed by an employee, student, or other third party who is subject to control of the Manatee County School Board is encouraged to use the appropriate grievance procedures set forth in policy. Complaints should be forwarded to Rebecca Wells, Equity Coordinator; P.O. Box 9069, Bradenton, FL 34206; 941-708-8540 ext. 3035.

CTSO and Student-Centered Events

The ACT Department is here to support you in any way we can to help you achieve a successful chapter. Attending conferences with students is one of the most exciting and demanding aspects of being a CTSO advisor, while providing student-centered educational opportunities that last a lifetime.



CECF/BPA www.cecf.org or www.bpa.org
July 2012, State Association Advisory Council Meeting, Washington, D.C.



FPSA www.fpsainc.org
~ TBD ~



DECA www.deca.org
July 31–Aug 2, Emerging Leaders Conference, Los Angeles



HOSA www.flhosa.org
June 20–23, 2012, National Leadership Conference, Orlando



FBLA/PBL www.floridafbla-pbl.com
June 24–27, PBL National Leadership Conference
June 29–July 27, FBLA National Leadership Conference, both in San Antonio



SkillsUSA www.skillsusafl.org
June 24–27, National Leadership and Skills Conference, Kansas City



FCCLA www.flccla.org
July 8–12, National Leadership Conference, Orlando



TSA www.floridatsa.com
June 21–25, National Conference & Competitions, Nashville



FFA www.flaffa.org
June 25–29, 2012, State Leadership Conference, Orlando



FBA www.futurebuildersofamerica.org
July 26–28, Southeast Building Conference, Orlando

ACT UPDATE

Adult, Career & Technical Education



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Adult, Career and Technical Education is the branch of academics that links the world of education to the world of work. The **ACT UPDATE** delivers the department's latest news, events, and "shining stars"—accolades of achievement in career and technical education. Got news, events, or comments to include in the next **ACT UPDATE**? Send your articles to:

Doug Wagner, Director ACT
wagnerd@manateeschools.net

or

Trish Litton, Secondary Vocational Specialist
littont@manateeschools.net

Around the District

Watch for all of the publications keeping you informed about what's happening around the District in the Adult, Career & Technical Education Department.



Tech Times

Career Pathways

Take Stock Times

Transition Times

ACT Update

Spotlight on Success

ManateeACT.com