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SCHOOL
Biz & Buzz
Keeping Pace



Automotive technology is rapidly cruising forward. Gone are the days of a hammer, chisel, and replacing parts in a grimy and dark garage. Today's automotive service technicians are keeping pace with advancements. As a result, workstations are clean, bright, safe, and surrounded by expensive high-tech equipment such as laptops and advanced computer programs. These essential tools are used to accurately diagnose and repair today's automobiles.

James Nanney is an automotive technology instructor at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI). The MTI program is accredited by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation, Inc. (NATEF). ASE is an independent organization whose mission is to certify and identify competent, qualified mechanics, while NATEF qualifies training centers and programs according to ASE standards.

James delivers new automotive technology into the classroom and lab where logical thinking is the first step in automotive repair. "I enjoy the challenge of teaching students who are willing to learn," he says. MTI students benefit from James' 39 years of experience in the industry. "I've always been fascinated by how things work. It's definitely a passion. Beyond the challenge of teaching diagnostics and repair, I stress the need for good work habits including integrity, accuracy, and punctuality.

With top technology skills, excellent work habits, and industry certifications, MTI's students are in great hands with James Nanney behind the wheel.



KIDZ
Biz & Buzz

Girl Power: "A Good Fit"

Kerry Miskowsky has an exemplary work ethic. She is organized, confident, inquisitive, and has always thrived in environments that require discipline. Kerry is a member of the National Technical Honor Society, the leading organization recognizing outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. She is also a former JROTC rifle team member at Manatee High School. After graduation, Kerry explored career options at State College of Florida (SCF) but eventually found her niche at Manatee Technical Institute (MTI).

"I've always liked building stuff, putting things together and figuring out how things worked," Kerry said. She is now in her second year of MTI's Automotive Service Technology program and well on her way to an interesting and rewarding career.

"I'm happy doing what I do," she added. "I love every minute of it. It requires discipline and you need to be competent. I'm a results-oriented person and I like getting the job done. The instructors here at MTI take their job seriously and provide a learning environment that promotes knowledge and growth. It's a good fit for me!"

InnoVators

**MTI Automotive Technology
Six Things Every Driver Should Know**

There's more to safe driving than simply knowing the rules of the road. Maybe you got your license yesterday, or you've been behind the wheel for thirty years—either way, the following tips can apply.



- 1. Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you.** One way to measure is to pick a stationary point up ahead. When the car in front of you passes the point, start counting slowly. ("One one-thousand, two one-thousand, three-one-thousand...") If your car reaches that spot before you've counted at least to three, you're too close.
- 2. When the traffic light turns green, wait a bit before driving through the intersection.** You never know if someone on the cross street will run a red light.
- 3. Never assume you know what other drivers are going to do.** Just because your turn signal is flashing bright and clear doesn't mean that car is going to let you over. Or, just because their turn signal is flashing doesn't mean they will actually turn. Sometimes a driver will signal but change his mind at the last second. Wait until the car actually turns before you pull out into its path.
- 4. Cell phones and driving are not a good mix.** It's smart to carry a phone around, especially in case of emergencies, but talking on the phone is a major distraction. Texting is even worse. Wait until you reach your destination before using a cell phone, or pull over. There's even a new catch-phrase for the cause of accidents: "Driving while intoxicated."
- 5. Get to know your car.** Know what your dashboard warning lights mean; recognizing a problem in time could save you a lot of money. Pay attention to any strange sounds or smells that could mean trouble. Even if something "feels" wrong, such as low air pressure in your tires or faulty brakes, you'll be able to pick up on it immediately.
- 6. Drive defensively, not offensively.** Patience hardly comes to us naturally, but try to put the situation in a bit of perspective. Would you rather be late or dead?

It's been said that a vehicle in motion is like a loaded weapon. An accident can cost a life. If you are behind the wheel, remember that it's not just your life involved; you're responsible for the lives of passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers around you. Stay safe!



Success Stories

Students in Manatee Technical Institute's (MTI) automotive program have the opportunity to compete in the district, state, and national level in the SkillsUSA Automotive Service Technology events.

94% of the students who have successfully completed the automotive course at MTI have gotten jobs in some of the following occupations:

- Service Writer: liaison between vehicle owner and technician.
- Auto Technician: maintains and repairs motor vehicles.
- Brake Specialist: concentrates on brake maintenance and repair.
- Service Manager: oversees repair center operations.



DISCOVER
the
Future



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

Occupational Title	Entry Level	Experienced
Minimum wage	\$7.25	—
Automotive Body Repairers	\$16.84	\$21.89
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	\$11.58	\$23.33
Bus and Truck Mechanics	\$17.29	\$22.24
Insurance Sales Agents	\$14.18	\$32.71
Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	\$12.85	\$19.75
First-Line Managers of Transportation	\$17.39	\$27.40

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

Career Pathway: Students desiring a career in these areas can find related educational programs at these schools*: Manatee Technical Institute, State College of Florida—Sarasota/Manatee, University of South Florida

*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB
Wise

Check out the following websites:

- <http://auto.howstuffworks.com>
- www.kidtips.com/parenting_topics/TeenDriving.htm
- www.manateetechnicalinstitute.org/automotive/index.html
- www.skillsusa.org

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