

Newspaper in Education Presents

# inquiziKidz

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE COUNTY'S MAGNET SCHOOLS & ADULT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Are you able to fix an engine?

Discover the Future

**Careers**

- Automotive Technician
- Truck Technician
- Parts Specialist
- AFV Technician
- Service Writer
- Service Manager
- Drivability Technicians
- Specialty Technicians

**Professional Organizations**

National Institute for Automotive Service



For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:  
<http://www.khake.com/page42.html>  
 OR  
<http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/careers.htm>

**kidzbiz**

**Ask the Expert**

**K** When Scott moved to Manatee County from Alabama he first began his studies in the air conditioning program and soon found this was not his primary area of interest. He has always liked cars and for three generations his family has been employed in the automotive industry including working at General Motors and Delphi Auto Parts. With a family history in the industry, Scott enrolled in the automotive technology program at MTI to "better educate myself on the make-up, function, and assembly of automobiles so I can say I know more than my family on the subject. I have achieved my goal. And, when I graduate I will have the necessary skills to obtain a good job." Scott's long-term goal is to become an auto machinist and fabricator. He would like to take a course in welding to enhance his skills and marketability - combining engine repair and exhaust work. This knowledge will provide him many of the skills he needs to build a car from scratch. When Scott graduates he will continue the family tradition working in the automotive industry.



**Scott Urtel**

**It's Not Your Mother's Car**

The Automotive Technology program at Manatee Technical Institute, accredited by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), provides state-of-the-art training that leads to employment and/or advancement as automotive technicians. The program prepares students through extensive classroom academic coursework and hands-on training that includes use of tools, equipment, materials, and processes found in the automotive industry. Admission into the program includes an evaluation, interviews, registration and orientation. Mechanical and technological aptitude and the ability to meet and deal with the public are necessary skills. Advanced skills in math and language are required to complete the program.

In 2001, MTI launched Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES), a large-scale school-to-career program to address the needs of retail car dealerships in the area. Students who complete the program are prepared with the skills and knowledge to be employed as Automotive Service Technicians. Ten AYES students are currently employed in local car dealerships. The program placed first in Ford/AAA Automotive Skills Competition and yearly students compete in SkillsUSA competition.

With the added complex technology installed in today's cars, the demand for highly skilled technicians has greatly increased. Some newer models are equipped with more than 40 – 50 computer modules. Skilled technicians must keep current with state-of-the-art technological advances requiring advanced academic skills.

There are many opportunities for skilled technicians in Manatee County. The average dealership automotive technician with ten years of experience makes \$60,000 per year and some earn a salary that is directly tied to their skills, ability and motivation that exceeds \$100,000 per year.

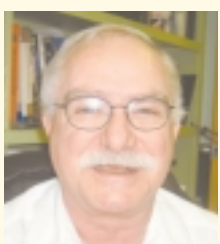


**explore it**

**School biz**

**A First Career a Second Time**

Cecil Trumbo began teaching early in his career. He left, only to return after working for automotive dealerships and owning his own automotive repair shop. Cecil has taught automotive technology at MTI for 15 years. His students are very diverse. His job is to assess each student's skill level and teach the students the knowledge and skills they need to be successful, highly skilled automotive technicians. Cecil supports his students and is proud of their accomplishments. "It is a real good feeling when you go into a dealership and see former students who are successful and providing a needed service in our community."



**Cecil Trumbo**

Adult and high school students are enrolled in the automotive technology program. Students complete 1800 hours of coursework and an on-the-job (OJT) component at MTI and in local repair shops. With experience, students who graduate from the program are eligible to take the ASE exam. Along with Cecil, instructors Gary DeNoon and Jim Cichocki are members of the team of experts in the automotive program at MTI who keep current with technology and changing trends in the automotive industry to teach and graduate highly skilled automotive technicians.

**Choosing a Repair Shop Checklist**

Follow these tips from the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Excellence (ASE) for selecting a good repair shop.

1. Start shopping for a repair facility before you need one.
2. Ask friends an associate for recommendations; consult local consumer organizations.
3. Arrange for alternate transportation in advance so you will not feel forced to choose a shop based solely on location.
4. Look for a neat well-organized facility, with vehicles in the parking lot equal in value to your own and modern equipment in the service bays.
5. Look for a courteous staff, with a service writer willing to answer all of your questions.
6. Look for policies regarding labor rates, diagnostic fees, guarantees, acceptable methods of payment, etc.
7. Ask if the repair facility specializes or if it usually handles your type of repair work.
8. Look for signs of professionalism in the customer service area such as civic community or customer service awards.
9. Look for evidence of qualified technicians: trade school diplomas, certificates of advanced course work, land certification by ASE.
10. Reward good service with repeat business and customer loyalty.

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