



Tri-County Community College

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News Release

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TCCC automotive program receives national certification

The Automotive Technology program at Tri-County Community College (TCCC) recently received certification by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

“During the past year and a half, faculty member Keith Marcus has worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program would meet strict industry standards,” said John Cabe, TCCC Vice President for Academic and Student Development Services. “We are delighted to join the ranks of ASE certified technician programs.

“Students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be assured of getting quality job applicants,” he said.

Marcus, who has a diploma from Nashville Auto Diesel College and an Associate in Applied Science from TCCC, joined the TCCC faculty in 1992.

“In order to achieve this coveted recognition, our training program underwent a rigorous evaluation by NATEF that helped us meet certain standards of excellence,” said Marcus. “We were measured not only in our courses of instruction, but also in regards to our facilities and equipment.”

Marcus explained that the TCCC automotive program had received certification in the following areas: Brakes; Electrical/Electronic Systems; Engine Performance; and Suspension and Steering.

In addition to Marcus, Cabe also expressed appreciation to TCCC staff member Diane Owl for “her yeoman-like efforts compiling the self-study notebook, coordinating meetings and working with Keith and our Advisory committee.”

Al Duebber, Chair of the NATEF Board of Trustees, explains the value and importance of the certification achievement.

“Certification of automotive training programs increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders,” he said. “It gives added assurance that Tri-County Community College graduates will be employable entry-level technicians. As a result, the motoring public will benefit since more qualified repair technicians will join the work force.

“This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents in the tri-state area,” said Duebber.

Marcus said a very important aspect of the entire project was the “wonderful insight and cooperation of our Advisory Committee.” In addition to himself and Ms. Owl, Financial Aid Technician at TCCC, members of the Advisory Committee included Mike Pope (Chair), Service Manager at Jacky Jones Chevrolet in Murphy; Jerry Orr (Vice-Chair) Automotive Instructor at Robbinsville High School; Ed Ashe, Manager of Jacky Jones Chrysler/Plymouth/Dodge/Jeep, Hayesville; Ms. Linda Hunter, Service Manager at Jacky Jones Chrysler/Plymouth/Dodge/Jeep, Hayesville; Terry Robinson of Hayesville; Perry Graves of Murphy; Junior Anderson, Owner, Auto Parts & Supply, Murphy; Dave Hulse, Owner, DGT Auto, Murphy; and Norman Roberts, Owner, Roberts Tire & Auto Center, Murphy.

Marcus said the TCCC program is now certified for five years. It will continue to do a self-study review to ensure that it continues to meet industry standards and to make adjustments to the latest technological advances in the rapidly changing automotive world.

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Photo: Celebrating the ASE certification at TCCC are members of the college staff along with some members of the TCCC Automotive Advisory Committee. (from left) Norman Roberts, TCCC President Dr. Norman Oglesby, Mark Farmer, Keith Marcus, Diane Owl, Roy Walls, John Cabe, Mike Pope, Jerry Orr and Steve Ware.