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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Automotive Youth Educational Systems*



**Grant amount:** \$600,000

**Leveraged amount:** \$1,050,000 in cash and in-kind support from AYES, participating high schools, automotive manufacturers, and state-level auto dealer organizations

**Grantee:** Automotive Youth Educational Systems

**Key Partners:** Nearly all major automobile manufacturing companies

**Location of Grant Activities:** Nationwide

### **Challenge**

It has become increasingly difficult for the automotive industry to find qualified body and service technicians. The number of new graduates from secondary and associate degree automotive programs does not come close to meeting the demand for the 12,000 to 15,000 additional technicians who are needed nationwide each year.

### **Addressing the Challenge**

The AYES initiative addresses this workforce challenge by supporting the development and growth of select, industry-standard automotive technician training programs at technical high schools. AYES encourages students to pursue careers in the fields of automotive service technology and collision repair/refinish and prepares them for entry-level technician positions or academic options with automotive programs that offer professional certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). AYES emphasizes applied academics and contextual classroom learning and provides participating students with mentored worksite internships.

### **Impact Data**

To date, 1,310 students from 99 high schools have participated in the AYES certification test, with pass rates averaging 70%. Overall, 5,662 students from 334 schools in 44 states have completed the AYES curriculum. Students are supported by a network of 3,951 automotive dealers and 3,906 mentors. 98% of graduates are placed in automotive dealerships, and 73% of graduates have been retained in automotive careers.

### **Sustainable Impact**

AYES ensures sustainability through its strong, dynamic partnerships among automotive manufacturers, automotive dealers, and high-performing high schools. This grant has allowed AYES to certify 5,000 additional students through on-line tests that link high school automotive programs to professional ASE certifications, while increasing the number of programs offered nationwide. AYES has also developed National Apprenticeship Guidelines for the program and is now a formally-approved apprenticeship program. This recognition is a key component of project sustainability.

