

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Building Automotive Services Partnerships for Urban Communities

Grant amount: \$95,000

Grantee: Pennsylvania Automotive Association (PAA)

Key partners:

Harrisburg Career and Technology Academy, the Pennsylvania Public Workforce System, Harrisburg Area Community College, Snap-On Tools, Inc., Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)

Location of grant activities: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Leveraged amount: \$121,200 in tools, equipment, and vehicles, mostly from Snap-On, Inc. and the PAA.

Challenge:

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the automotive services sector will face serious labor shortages, such that 101,000 new automotive service technicians will be needed between the years 2002 and 2012. In the past, America's youth have played significant roles in filling these shortages. The automotive services sector has identified other workforce challenges that must be addressed, namely diversifying the workforce and building capacity for training while maintaining industry-led standards. The challenge for this grant is to create a model that will bring the Harrisburg Career and Technology Academy and other training institutions up to the industry standards set by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES).

Addressing the Challenge:

The Pennsylvania Automotive Association is part of a business and education council that includes PAA dealer members, six community colleges, and 28 vocational and technical secondary schools across the state. Under AYES standards, PAA and their partners help to educate, train, and employ new automotive service technicians. With this grant, PAA will strengthen an on-the-job mentor/intern program as well as business connections for the Harrisburg Career and Technology Academy, while providing career opportunities to students facing social and economic barriers. Through this pilot, the first five students, will continue education at Harrisburg Area Community College or another approved manufacturer-specific training program. Tools also will be furnished to each student by Snap-On, Inc. For the first time, participants will earn an associate degree or certificate in automotive technology and receive a journeyperson's certificate upon completion of the program.

Projected Outcomes:

- More young professionals will benefit from industry-standard training and the automotive services industry will benefit from recruiting technicians who are on the path to certification.
- Participants will receive both classroom and hands-on training experience at local area automobile dealerships.
- Case studies and lessons learned will be shared with dealership associations, the public workforce system, and the industry for replication purposes.