

Filling the Need for Automotive Technicians

NETSA members in the Greater Boston Area will soon have a new source of trained, ready-to-work automotive technicians. They will be recruited, trained and placed at shops in the greater Boston area through a new organization called PACE (Partnership for Automotive Career Education). PACE is a unique collaboration involving three community-based



A great group picture from our first class.

organizations in Boston—the Asian American Civic Association, La Alianza Hispana and the Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts—as well as Sullivan Tire, several other automotive partners, Madison Park Vocational High School and Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology. In October, PACE was awarded a one million dollar grant to implement the program over the next three years. The money is provided by SkillWorks, a consortium of eight foundations, the city of Boston, and the state of Massachusetts, led by The Boston Foundation.

The PACE project will serve adults. It is aimed at filling the well-documented need for skilled automotive technicians by providing technical training in two modules each year

Module One (began February, 2005)

- Safety
- Tire and wheel balancing
- Maintenance service
- Electrical service
- Introduction to suspension and braking systems

Module Two (begins September, 2005)

- Automotive systems maintenance and electrical systems
- Chassis, brakes and suspension

Other Services

- Intensive English instruction
- Computer literacy
- Math
- Job readiness/workplace etiquette/customer service
- Career coaching
- Financial counseling
- ASE test preparation
- Post-placement screening and observation of new hires before further training investment (full-time employment between Modules 1 and 2)
- Customized training for supervisors

How NETSA members can work with PACE

- Provide entry-level jobs for program graduates
- Provide senior technician mentors or “buddies” for program graduates
- Identify incumbent workers who can take advantage of PACE services, such as additional technical training, English/math/computer

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instruction, career coaching, ASE test prep and financial counseling

- Identify line supervisors for customized training
- Provide input into curriculum development

Over the next three years, PACE plans to serve approximately 150 incumbent automotive workers and 100 in its pre-employment program. One NETSA member who has been involved in PACE since the planning stages sees the value to employers. Anne Lustwerk, Director of Training for Sullivan Tire and an active member of the PACE advisory committee, says "The PACE partnership is going to be very beneficial to Sullivan Tire. We now have an excellent new source for recruiting employees and resources to help us train and develop our current employees." For more information about PACE and to learn how to become involved, contact Richard Goldberg, Asian American Civic Association, 617-426-9492 ext. 223, richard@aaca-boston.org



Jin Zeng, our first student hired from the program (by Sullivan Tire) just last week.

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