

# Outlook Good Auto Technology I: Skills in high demand



Instructions in installing an oil-type wheel seal is demonstrated and discussed with junior and senior students of the Auto Technology I class -- the first year for the class to be offered in many years. Teacher Kevin Morris, a local business owner and alumnus, returned to the classroom to revive the auto maintenance instruction like he received years ago as a student himself at Norwell.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, careers in the auto maintenance field should increase by an average of 17% and "Job opportunities for qualified job seekers should be very good."

-- which is precisely one of the reasons first-year teacher and industry leader Kevin Morris decided to restart the Auto Service Technology I course at his alma mater.

"My driving force for being here is as an employer. Maybe I could have a positive influence to get better students involved in this as a career choice," Morris said.

Morris knows what he is talking about since he owns and operates his own business, "Precision Service, Auto and Truck Repair" in Bluffton for nearly 20 years, and teaches similar classes at

Ivy Tech.

"This is a most in-depth class," says senior Ryan Elmore. Following graduation, Elmore has already chosen to study Ag. Equipment Repair.

Today, 15 members of the class are repairing brakes and replacing brake lines on two of the students' own vehicles: a bright red El Camino and a 1974 light blue International.

Junior Justin Branstrator took the class because he thought it "sounded like fun."

"I'm going to hopefully continue to the next level when they add it next year," Branstrator said. "Then I'll be able to fix my cars myself."

"When they walk out of here, my goal is that the students will have the skills and knowledge to gain an entry level position," Morris said.



## Show me the money... in Auto Maintenance

**MEDIAN PAY:** \$17.21 per hour or \$35,790 per year

**ENTRY-LEVEL EDUCATION:** High school diploma or equivalent

**ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING:** Long-term on-the-job training.

**NUMBER OF JOBS:** 2010: 723,400

**JOB OUTLOOK FOR 2010-2020:** - 17% increase

Automotive Body and Glass Repairer - \$37,580

Diesel Service Technicians - \$40,850

Heavy Vehicle/Mobile Equipment Service Techs - \$42,630

-- INFORMATION FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

At the completion of Norwell High School's Automotive Maintenance, all students will receive:

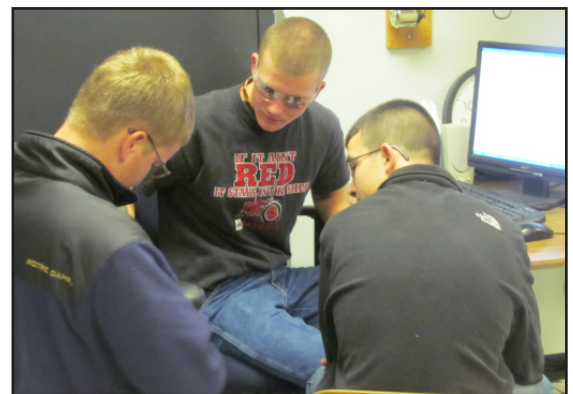
- ✓6 hours of credit towards enrollment at Ivy Tech
- ✓ASE Industry Certification in Brakes, Suspension and Steering



Austin Dedrick assists classmate Ryan Elmore with replacing the brake drum during class. Students routinely volunteer their own cars to practice on for free repairs when the class studies auto repair skills.



Working on changing the brake shoes and lines of an El Camino is Hunter Dillon.



Nathan Hoffman checks the computer to find the torque specs for the nuts needed with classmates Ryan Elmore and Kalib Allen. The boys were working on a '74 International's brake shoes and lines.