Graduate Accepted in BMW Program

Four Instructors Earn CHEP Designation

New Video Camera in Fundamentals Class
Is It Time For A Breakthrough?

Recently, I was reading a book authored by Tony Robins where he talks about different myths that we all deal with throughout our lives. The final myth that he talked about, I believe, fits us all here at ATI.

The myth that we all have to tackle says that the reason we’re not succeeding, not achieving, not growing is because of someone or something else beyond our control. The alternative thought is that somehow we just aren’t made of the stuff that can help us master this area of our life. The truth is: The ultimate thing that stops most of us from making significant progress in our lives is not somebody else’s limitation, but rather our own limiting perceptions or beliefs. No matter how successful we are as human beings, no matter how high we reach personally, professionally, spiritually, emotionally, there’s always another level. To get there, we have to be honest with ourselves and honest about our unconscious fears.

Everybody has a fear of failure at some level at some point in their lives. Even when we know what to do, our fear can keep us from executing our plans. As a result, rather than face our natural fears, we come up with stories or reasons of why we are not where we want to be or who we want to be. Our stories almost always relate to something outside our control, or our lack of some natural talent or ability. Talent and skill are two key elements to success. For those truly committed, you can get the skill if you can get beyond the mental limits of how hard, difficult, or “impossible” it may be to succeed.

So, what’s next? A breakthrough. A breakthrough is a moment in time when the impossible becomes possible. This is when you just don’t talk about something, but you finally take action and do whatever it takes to make it happen. Any change in your status, takes an action to make it happen.

So now it’s time to self-reflect, see if you’re who you want to be, or where you want to be. If one or both of these areas are not to your satisfaction, put a plan together to make that change, then make it happen. Things may not happen overnight, but with persistence changes can and will happen.

A comment that I’ve often heard over the years: “the biggest obstacle that you will incur during your lifetime is standing in your shoes.”

Dick Daigle, ATI Campus President
Cool Google Video Glasses

ATI recently purchased a pair of Google glasses for the Automotive Program. Training videos can be recorded, edited and added to the programs’ Moodle site for each course of instruction, so students can review proper procedures on how to perform different tests. (Below shows Mr. Brabble video taping a circuit board and projecting it on his smart phone)

Also during the course of instruction students will encounter different scenarios that are “real world” in the shop, that you cannot plan for in class. When these situations are encountered, training videos can again be made so future students can benefit from the same situation and they can review how to handle these unusual challenges. Videos that are produced can also be posted to the schools YouTube site for others to see and also give the school exposure through the internet. As time goes on students should begin to see more in house produced videos showing up in Moodle and on YouTube. We are really excited about the prospects of how the glasses can be utilized.

Mike Brabble, Automotive Instructor

ATI Faculty Earns Prestigious CHEP Designation

ATI wishes to congratulate four of its faculty members earning the prestigious “Certified Higher Education Professional” award from the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools (NASASPS).

Mr. Edwin Miller (Automotive Instructor), Mr. Martin Rambo (HVAC Instructor), Mr. Stan Wise (Automotive Program Coordinator) and Ms. Marcia Stewart-Downing (Service Management Instructor) all successfully completed the twelve required training courses as part of their continued annual training activities to earn the designation.

All of the faculty members stated that they find the training lessons quite challenging and well in line for continued professional development and a positive teaching environment.

Student Selected For BMW Step Program

Congratulations to Automotive Technology graduate Jeremy Fisher. Jeremy was accepted to attend the prestigious BMW-STEP training program. Jeremy is attending four months of BMW training in Orlando, Florida. Only top graduates of pre-selected post secondary automotive programs qualify to apply. To apply for a position in the class, students must possess a near 4.0 GPA along with perfect attendance.

BMW STEP has been and remains the most comprehensive BMW technician development program for the BMW Group. Funded by BMW of North America, LLC (BMWNA), the program chooses the finest talent from select automotive schools and colleges across the country. Since its inception in 1996, the program has produced over 3000 STEP high level graduates.

Kirk Clayton, Director of Career Services
ATI Hosted SkillsUSA HVAC Event

On February 6, local high schools sent their best and brightest technical students to ATI to compete in the 2015 District 1 SkillsUSA HVAC Event. Thirteen candidates from Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach worked through five skill stations and a written exam, all developed and judged by ATI’s HVAC department and Mr. Weast, Evening School Manager. Each station demonstrated troubleshooting in an area of HVAC, including heating, air-conditioning, electrical, and pipe brazing. Prizes were awarded for the top three candidates; they competed at the state level in Roanoke in April.

ATI has hosted the HVAC SkillsUSA Event for over eight years. The competition is important to the students, as SkillsUSA showcases the techniques and training they will need in the work field.

Left to right: John Edwards, 3rd place, Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology; Holden Velazquez, 1st place, Virginia Beach Technical Center; Christopher Treacy, 2nd place, Norfolk Technical Center; Scott Trudell, 4th place, Virginia Beach Technical Center, and Benjamin Connor, 5th place, Virginia Beach.

David Philpott, HVAC Program Coordinator

Student Veterans Association

ATI’s Veterans Association is now recruiting for a new President of the club. The next meeting in June will be the 18th, starting at 5:30pm. Watch for the flyers posted on your SVA board in the main campus hallway, where you will find information about the speaker for the month.

We look forward to seeing you there!

April speaker, Bob Larned, Executive Director of Military Education, ECPI
Forrest Kvello, Manager at Big Al’s

Forrest Kvello, a former Marine, has been working on cars since he was 15 years old. But when he enrolled at ATI, he decided to try his hand at HVAC. It was not to soon after graduating that he felt the need to return to his first love……cars.

“Working in the residential side of HVAC just wasn’t for me. When I first started in HVAC and was working in industrial, I loved it.” Forrest said, “But the work wasn’t constant. When the job was completed I found myself working in residential and it just wasn’t for me. That is why I am back in automotive.”

Forrest has been working at Big Al’s in Hampton for a little over 2 years, and is already a manager. Employee, Jason Salajs graduated from the ATI’s automotive program in May of 2014 and now works for Forrest.

ATI’s instructors were awesome,” Forrest said, “each had a different teaching style, things were always different, not boring and they kept my attention. I came to ATI because I had friends that went there, and they said they loved it and learned a lot”.

Forrest said that his hope is to work towards senior or regional management, and he sees that happening for his future with Big Al’s.

Defone Lewis, Welding in SC

In March 2014, 24 year old Defone Lewis proudly walked across a stage in his tasseled hat and gown and accepted his diploma for successfully completing the Welding program at ATI. He had plenty to be proud of.

Originally from Chicago, Defone moved here over a year ago and moved in with his sister and her husband. He had to take a bus or carpooled to school every day until he had saved enough to purchase a car. After enrolling in ATI, he soon found work, and continued working throughout school. In spite of many challenges, including the lack of a car, Defone had a pretty good attendance record and maintained a high GPA.

Defone had been networking through a friend and found out about a company called CB&I in South Carolina. In spite of people telling him they were not hiring, he continued to check with CB&I for openings. Finally, after 3 months of following up, he was called, interviewed on the phone and was offered the opportunity to go to CB&I and attend orientation.

“I loved ATI, they opened up doors for me,” said Defone, “They opened up lots of opportunities in welding, because of the different processes they teach. I originally wanted to be a basketball player, but that didn’t work out. My brother turned me on to welding because he is a welder and doing really well. I want to do something with my life and I needed a good paying job that would help me reach my goals. I found that in welding.”
Operation Freedom Trucks

On January 14th and 15th Mr. Jim Tower the regional manager for Werner and Dave Conkling arrived at the ATI Tractor Trailer Driving program campus with one of the Operation Freedom trucks. The purpose of this visit was to speak with the student drivers about employment with Werner upon completion of the course and to inform students that Werner is a military friendly company.

Having the truck available to the students was a welcome addition to the presentation. Students showed high interest in the truck as well as the Operation Freedom Program. Dave Conkling is the driver of this truck, and is a retired veteran. Mr. Conklin gave a brief presentation on the effect the program has had on people he encounters during his Travel. Werner has 5 trucks wrapped to show support for the Raise Awareness of U.S. Troops and as a way to encourage increased employment for veterans after separation from the military.

Mr. Conklin stated that since the trucks introduction, employment of veterans by Werner has increased from 13% to 20%. The national average he stated was 7%.

ATI appreciates Mr. Tower and Mr. Conkling taking the time to visit with us and welcome them to return whenever possible.

Rebecca Higginbotham, Commercial Driving Program Coordinator

Maryland High School Visits ATI

On February 10th, ATI welcomed a select group of high school juniors and seniors from J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center located in Westover, Maryland. The bus was laden with ambitious students from the automotive, HVAC and carpentry classes. In attendance were their instructors, Mr. Ward, Mr. Monk and Mr. Webster.

First stop was at the HVAC and automotive campuses at Miller Store Road where Mr. Philpott, HVAC Coordinator toured and enlightened the group on the features and benefits of the HVAC program offered at ATI.

Mike Corcoran, Director of Admissions and Harry Cole, Admissions Advisor for Maryland escorted the group to the adjacent automotive shop and answered an abundance of questions regarding the automotive programs offered at ATI.

Last stop was at the Southern Blvd Campus where High Performance, Diesel and Welding were on the menu as well as pizza and refreshments. Many students left with the comment, “I'll be back after I graduate.”

Harry Cole, Admissions Advisor, Maryland
EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Ryder

In 1933, one man’s vision and a $35 down payment on a Model A Ford Truck launched a company that would become a recognized leader in transportation and logistics.

Ryder System, Inc., is a leading provider of commercial transportation, logistics, and supply chain management solutions, serving customers throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Over the past 80 years, Ryder has earned a reputation for delivering solutions that ease complexity and increase efficiency for companies of all sizes. An industry-leading FORTUNE® 500 COMPANY, Ryder’s products and services encompass everything from fleet management to large-scale supply chain solutions and turnkey transportation solutions, making commerce flow more efficiently, reliably, and safely for everyone.

Ryder Fleet Management Solutions (FMS) provides leasing, truck rentals, used vehicle sales, maintenance, fuel and safety services to help customers deliver top-line service with bottom line savings and one stop simplicity.

Ryder continually ranks among the industry’s leading companies and has earned awards from customers, industry analysts and national publications. And that’s just the beginning.

June Taylor, Recruiter, after hearing about the school from co-workers who attended the Super Tech Competition in Orlando reached out to Dick Daigle, ATI campus president. Upon his invitation, she scheduled Britt Abbott, Maintenance Manager, to speak to the students this past November. Since then, June, a team of Service Managers, the Director of Operations and the Human Resources Coordinator have been out to ATI.

Subsequently, June has developed a partnership with Michael O’Brien from Career Services.

“We are seeking ATI graduates because, what they are learning is a skill set match as a Diesel Technician in our shops.” June said, “When we have openings I reach out to Michael and he sends over resumes of graduates to call. We look forward to a continued partnership with ATI.”

So, far 5 ATI graduates have been hired into various positions. Jesse Barden, who took 4th place in the Super Tech competition, has been with Ryder over a month.
The HVAC department designed and built an exhaust system for the automotive shop at 1429 Miller Store Road. The system allows for up to eight cars running in the shop at a time. Without a ventilation system, auto exhaust would quickly accumulate in the shop and potentially spread through the building. The new system allows several cars to run while safely porting the exhaust outside the building. Under the direction of instructor Garrett Jennings, the project took nearly two weeks to coordinate. HVAC students provided most of the fabrication and installation labor; several classes assisted in the system’s construction.

Dave Philpott, HVAC Program Coordinator

Service Management On The Move

The Service Management class had the pleasure of listening to two guest speakers in the past three months.

Mr. Patrick Carroll is the VP of Human Resources at TFC Recycling. He spoke to the class on hiring practices for his company and generally all businesses. He passed along many tips and ways to improve the applicant’s chances for various positions including those in management.

Mr. Carroll was also able to make the students aware of sources that will help with the job search and how to use a variety of tools to find the best job.

In April, Mr. Jim Carroll (no relation to Patrick) who is the Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Small Business Development Center spoke to the classes.

A presentation of nearly two hours was well received in which the students came to understand the basic steps one must take to start a business in this area. He also showed the many additional free online courses sponsored by the Virginia SBDC and George Mason University.

Many of the courses are necessary to properly run a business. The SBDC also offers professional free services to help the entrepreneur begin their new endeavor on the right foot and stay on track.

Joe Roth, Service Management Instructor

The Model 650 Trainer Debuts at ATI’s Spring Open House

A new automotive trainer really brought a lot of attention to itself on April 25th at the ATI Open House.

The new model 650 trainer from ATECH is a fully operational running engine. It is a gasoline direct engine with fuel pressures ranging from 400 psi to 2000 psi. It includes fault insertion for such items as the Throttle Position Sensor, Coolant Temp Sensor, Mass Air Flow, fuel injector and fuel pump along with others. Also it has a breakout box already wired in to make diagnostics much easier. No need to back probe connectors. All training meets NATEF requirements.

Mr. Edwin Miller, Automotive Instructor

Exhaust System For Miller Store Campus

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Dave Philpott, HVAC Program Coordinator

Instructor, Gary Groeber explains the 650 trainer to Open House attendees

Mr. Edwin Miller, Automotive Instructor
New Camera Saves Class Time

The new camera projector for the Smart Board has lots of new tools to help the instructor. It allows the instructor to capture notes during presentations and save them for later. It also helps to show small items with great detail and even has video capabilities and a built in microphone.

The capturing of notes during a presentation has benefits not only for the students but also the instructors. For the students it saves class time once the instructor has written and captured it allows them to quickly review topics of discussion. It also helps keep the instructor on task by allowing them to leave key talking points as a permanent part of the presentation.

It has been very useful for the instruction of measuring devices allowing instructors to take items that are small and increasing their size to fill the space of a white board. Once the measuring devices size has been increased it also gives the ability to freeze the item and make ink notes directly on it.

Another feature that lends its self to interesting opportunities is the video recording capabilities. Allowing instructors to make short instructional videos that can be placed on the ATI You Tube page. From the You Tube page links can then be applied to the class Moodle page which expands the student’s classroom to any computer with internet access. If a student is struggling to read a particular measuring device while studying on the weekend at home, this technology will help instructors create a learning environment that allows them to reach the instructor at anytime effectively making their class available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Josh Nuzzo, Fundamentals Instructor

Computer Simulation Training

VRTEX 360 is a state of the art welding training system. This computer based simulation puts students in a 3D virtual environment and displays real time angles, arc length and travel speed. It is designed to provide an easy to use and engaging welding training tool. This computer simulation also scores and grades each pass of a weld and can be monitored by the instructor while being recorded for later viewing. The system supports tee joint, flat plate, groove join, 6 in. diameter schedule 40 pipe, 2in. diameter XXS pipe, and lap joint in all positions.

The system can also be programed to simulate SMAW, GMAW, and FCAW in mild steel, stainless steel and aluminum in any position.

Jeff Batey, Welding Instructor
More Upgrades in Welding

The Xiris Weld View Camera system allows remote viewing of open arc welding, such as gas tungsten arc welding (TIG), shielded metal arc welding (ARC) and gas metal arc welding (MIG). This system is normally used for remote viewing of automatic welding processes, but with the addition of a 50’ monitor it becomes a human machine interface allowing an instructor to demonstrate a weldment to a large class at 10x or better magnification. The system can show more details of various welding processes, such as weld arc, puddle and electrode tip. These demonstrations can also be recorded and slowed down to 1/4 speed giving students a better understanding of the process and the specifics involved to produce quality welds.

Jeff Batey, Welding Instructor

Heavy Vehicle Students Visit TFC

Heavy Vehicle students recently took a field trip to TFC recycling in Chesapeake. TFC is a family owned business employing over 350 people. You probably know them as the company that comes to your house and picks up the blue recycle can by your curb. As Virginia’s largest curbside recycler they service over 550,000 customers in six cities.

TFC has been hiring route drivers from the ATI Tractor Trailer Driving program for some time. Because of the success TFC has experienced with ATI driving grads they made the decision to actively recruit diesel mechanics to maintain their equipment. HR Manager Pat Carroll and Maintenance Supervisor Hank Brown conducted a tour of the shop and facilities. Hank spoke in length about the company’s commitment to converting company vehicles to compressed natural gas (CNG). He explained to the students about the cost savings to the company and protecting the environment. TFC has their own CNG pumping station.

Pat Carroll conducted interviews after the tour and made an employment offer to an ATI heavy vehicle graduate.

Kirk Clayton, Director of Career Services
Success seems to be largely a matter of hanging on after others have let go.

William Feather