Announcing Instructor of The Year

“Joe’s Job” An ATI Welding Instructor

Givens, Inc. Is On The Move
Throughout the winter months, several events occurred at ATI that we found quite exciting. First, ATI's welding program passed an intensive and very comprehensive audit by the American Welding Society (AWS). The audit went extremely well and culminated in ATI being selected as an AWS “Accredited Test Facility”. We are very proud of our program and the results of this audit indicated that ATI has an excellent welding program. Preparation for this program was quite intense and took several months to get to the level that AWS was looking for.

Another first was ATI being invited to the annual “Technology Maintenance Council” (TMC) meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. The purpose of the TMC is to improve transport equipment, its maintenance and maintenance management. There were meetings where many areas of maintenance and technology were presented as well as seminars concerning education. Rob Metzger, ATI Heavy Vehicle Program Coordinator and Cenek Picka, Campus Director of Academics attended the meeting.

The most recent notable event at ATI was the filming of a segment of Joe’s Jobs for Channel 13. Joe Flanagan who has been working for Channel 13, WVEC-TV News for thirty-two years, visited and toured ATI. Mr. Flanagan then taped a segment for his series as a new welding instructor in training at ATI. The footage aired Wednesday, March 9th on the 4 pm news. Joe did a great job and should be certified soon.

Dick
Danja Miller dedicated herself to ensuring that students enrolled in the Commercial Driving program received the best possible training. She committed herself to each and every student as if they were her only student. Danja demonstrated a “no student left behind” attitude that was obvious and supported by a course pass rate of 94.4% for the previous year.

Every year her desire for student success, pride in a job well done, and her professionalism grew. She set herself apart by being reliable, self-sufficient and able to create a rapport with students that earned both their respect and gratitude.

Danja retired soon after receiving her award from ATI, and she will be missed.

Congratulations Danja!

Rebecca Higginbotham, CDL Program Coordinator

BMW Visits ATI Automotive Program Students

Charles Klasman, of BMW North America and BMW Group University, recently visited the ATI campus to speak with aspiring technicians about the BMW STEP (Service Technician Education Programs) Program and the opportunity it could provide as a career path.

Started in 1997, the BMW STEP Program was established in a collaborative effort between BMW North America and BMW Retail Centers in order to address the shortage of talented technicians and the growing demand for BMW products in the United States, the largest purchaser of such products in the world.

If accepted into the program, BMW STEP students receive up to six months of high intensity training on BMW’s product line in one of their six locations across the country. The training is offered free of charge to students. Students are given the opportunity to select preferred destinations, but the placement of graduates of the program into shops depends on need and flexibility of the student.

If you are interested in being considered for the program, please come by and see your student services representative to begin the process of gathering the paperwork and information necessary to be submitted for approval.

Michael O’Brien, Career Services Advisor

ATI Donates Frame Rack To Norfolk Technical Center

In December, ATI’s president Mr. Dick Daigle, presented Mr. Kevin Monroe, the site coordinator at the Norfolk, Technical Center with donated equipment from ATI to the auto body program. The equipment included a Chief S21 Frame Rack with a comprehensive anchoring and pulling system, a Vector computerized frame measurement system and four tool boxes full of auto body tools. Hector Yulfo, the auto body instructor, said that it was a big upgrade from the older and smaller frame rack the school had been using. The new rack will allow students to learn more types of frame pulling and body work, to include full sized pickups and SUVs. Mr. Daigle’s hope was that the donation of this equipment will benefit the students, increase the technical center’s capabilities, and also help stir greater interest in automotive technology as a profession.
ATI Students....Craftsmen, Not Just Welders

Once again, ATI’s welding department has come through for the ECPI University educational family. The Culinary Institute of Virginia has recently acquired a working mobile food truck that needed a few minor upgrades to make it 100% operational. As welders, we are constantly called upon to display our fabrication skills. This job happened to test these skills in the form of stainless steel equipment brackets and a 2-piece shrouding for the main power and overflow drain pass-through. The brackets were made and installed as securing points for the industrial refrigerator cabinets, and the pass through shroud was made to bring the food vending trailer up to code with the health department.

Though it was a smaller project in size, it was a huge break from the ordinary and it gave our students valuable insight into the versatile role we play—not just as welders, but as craftsmen.

Be on the lookout for the culinary truck on ATI’s campus, as they’ve promised to swing through a few times and give us a taste of what their trade has to offer!

Ric Rosenberger, Welding Program Coordinator

Priority Auto Group Toured ATI

In November, three members of the Priority Auto Group management team visited ATI. Ray Mattox, Priority Chevrolet; Jim Rose, Priority Honda; and Tom Elmer, Priority Toyota, toured the main campus. They met with Career Services and talked about opportunities for ATI students and graduates. The Priority Auto Group has hired many ATI students over the years and we look forward to working even closer with them in the future. The managers also agreed to participate in the upcoming Automotive Program Advisory Committee meetings and offered excellent insight into the role of a technician in an automotive dealership. The group offered to meet with ATI auto and diesel students looking for a dealership opportunity.

Kirk Clayton, Campus Director of Career Services

Left to right: Cenek Picka, Director of Education; Dick Daigle, Campus President; Richard Negron, Automotive Instructor; Tommy Elmer; Priority Toyota; Ray Mattox, Priority Chevrolet; and Jim Rose, Priority Honda
Eastern Shore High School Students Choosing ATI

In November students from Arcadia High School and the Badger Vocational Education Program toured ATI. Thirty-two students from the welding and automotive technology programs drove two hours to visit the school. The students, under the supervision of Glenn Muhle, Jr., welding instructor and Frank Borowicz, automotive technology instructor, were given a tour of all school facilities. The automotive students visited the diagnostic classroom and Lab, and watched a demonstration of the school’s Dyno. Students also toured through heavy equipment and diesel. The students were impressed with the equipment and instructors. The welding students met Jeff Batey, one of the welding instructors, and he allowed students time on the VRTEX 360 welding simulator. The students from Badger ran into a former Badger graduate who now attends ATI. Many students from the Eastern Shore chose ATI for post secondary education. Mr. Muhle and Mr. Borowicz stated the trip was well worth it, and they said the students all enjoyed the field trip and got a great deal out of it.

Maryland High School Students Visit ATI

In January, ATI hosted students from J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center, Westover, MD. ATI’s Maryland high school representative, Harry Cole, arranged for the tour for 43 students, 5 chaperones and their instructor Mr. Ward. The students visited the ATI Miller Store Road location where they were greeted by Dave Philpott, HVAC Program Coordinator and given a tour of the HVAC campus. The tour continued at the ATI main campus, where the students saw demonstrations in automotive, heavy vehicle, diesel, and welding program areas. Andy Waszak, high performance instructor, demonstrated the Chassis Dyno, explaining how the Dyno is used to measure and tune a vehicle for maximum performance. The students said they really enjoyed the tour and were excited about what ATI has to offer.

Dan Mittendorff, Freshman Admissions Presenter
EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Givens Incorporated

When you have been in business for over 50 years, you are obviously doing something right. What Givens Incorporated is doing right is providing their customers with the best state of the art solutions for transportation, warehouse and logistics services that they can. Givens strives to provide expert care for their customers' goods from pier or shipper pick up to the final destination.

They are able to provide these benefits to their customers from their 1.7 million square feet of warehouse space located in Chesapeake, VA. Givens has its own company drivers and also offers cooperation opportunities with owner-operators as well, allowing them to offer terrific delivery capabilities to their customers on the East Coast.

As the next generation of truck drivers, ATI students could soon be filling the seats of those trucks rolling up and down America’s highways.

“Schools like ATI serve a great purpose,” Givens’ recruiter George Woodruff said. “They are teaching the next generation of drivers how to safely operate these vehicles by developing safe driving habits.”

Woodruff also said, “ATI instructors seem to be first class, quality people. They seem to do an excellent job relating to the students on both a professional and personal level.”

According to Mr. Woodruff, safety is always paramount at Givens and its company-wide goal is to maintain their high level of commitment to safety....“Safety is paramount in this industry,” he said. “When drivers enter the highways they have both their own and the public’s lives in their hands. It is important for them to learn from schools like ATI how to pay attention and be cognizant of their surroundings in order to operate their equipment in the safest manner possible.

Michael O’Brien, Career Services Advisor
**Instructor By Night, Village Blacksmith By Day**

George Cramer, a Navy veteran and ATI Welding Instructor, spent his military career as a hull technician first class, where he fine tuned his welding and fabrication skills. He was hired by ATI as a evening welding instructor in 2010, but by day, George is a Blacksmith. His shop, Village Blacksmith, was opened in September 2015, in Gloucester where he currently resides.

George entered in the county’s entrepreneur contest called Launch Gloucester, in 2015 and tied for third place. His winnings helped him with startup costs and marketing to launch his new business.

Cramer’s shop offers a variety of metal work including blacksmithing, hand-forged knives, and blade sharpening just to name a few of George’s specialties.

George was featured in a DailyPress article written December 31, 2015 by Frances Hubbard, a contact reporter. Type this link into your browser and take a look at the DailyPress video: [http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-gloucestervillage-blacksmith-20151209-premiumvideo.html](http://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-gloucestervillage-blacksmith-20151209-premiumvideo.html)

**ATI Host the Skills-USA Competition**

ATI’s HVAC department hosted the 2016 district 1 SkillsUSA competition in February. High school students from Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach Technical Centers participated in the event. HVAC instructors Mike Bartz, Will Jones, and Ben Lloyd served as judges; they were joined by former ATI HVAC instructor Garrett Jennings who volunteered his time for the competition. Marty Weast, an alumni of the HVAC program, also participated as a judge.

This year the competition included stations demonstrating skills in troubleshooting, diagnostics, and fabrication. New to the event was a job interview station, conducted by Kirk Clayton; this event judged the contestants on the soft skills necessary for a successful interview with a potential employer.

The top six winners all came from the Virginia Beach technical center. The first place winner moves on to the state event held in April in Fredericksburg, also hosted by ATI.

Dave Philpott, HVAC Program Coordinator

**ATI Graduate, John Davis Joins Career Services**

Welcome Jean (John) Davis to ATI and the Career Service department. John comes to ATI after 22, years of military service. John completed his Navy career as a Master Training Specialist/Curriculum Developer. He also worked for ten years with the Virginia Beach Sheriff’s Office. John graduated from ATI’s Automotive Technology with Service Management program in 2015. On rare occasions you may see John driving around campus his black Chevrolet Corvette. John is the president/founder of Street Dreams Corvette Club, Inc. which is made up of fellow Corvette enthusiasts. John’s organization holds their own charity car shows locally and also participates in other shows and events up and down the East Coast.

Since September John has been working with ATI HVAC and Tractor Trailer students and graduates. Stop by the Miller Store campus and visit him. Each Monday John is at the Scott Street Campus working with the truck drivers. We are very glad to have John on staff and as an ATI graduate he has an excellent understanding of the hard work it takes to become a successful graduate.

Kirk Clayton, Campus Director, Career Services
ATI welcomed guidance counselors from Virginia Beach for a tour of the main campus and the Miller Store campus in February. The counselors were met by ATI President Dick Daigle and given a tour by Mr. Daigle and Cenek Picka, Director of Education. Instructor Ed Miller showed them our Advanced Diagnostics Lab and went over what students learn troubleshooting today’s vehicles, while instructor Andy Waszak discussed our Performance Engineering program and gave a demonstration of both the engine and Chassis Dynamometers. Heavy Vehicle Program Coordinator Robert Metzger went over our Diesel and Heavy equipment program and gave them an insight into the enormous possibilities for diesel technicians. Welding Program Coordinator Rick Rosenberger, with instructor Jeff Batey, gave a brief on the Maritime Welding program and demonstrated the VRTEX Virtual Simulator, Plasma Cutter and Xris Welding Camera. Once finished at the main campus, the counselors moved on to the Miller Store Campus and were greeted by HVAC Program Coordinator Dave Philpott who discussed the education and career opportunities that the Heating, Air Conditioning and Ventilation program affords our students and gave a tour of the HVAC facility.

During each part of the tour the group asked questions about the program and the educational opportunities, and they were surprised at the diverse careers that were available. Rob Marlin remarked, “I am really impressed with the instructors and the level of knowledge they have.”

Those in attendance were Robert Marlin, Jr., from Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center; Laura “Beenie” Schleicher, First Colonial High; Randy Lawrence, Bayside High; Kim Love, Princess Anne High; Amanda Wagley, Salem High; Kerry Sheehan, Ocean Lakes High; and Sharon Walker, Green Run High.

Dan Mittendorff, Freshman Admissions Presenter
Advanced Technology Institute