



May
2023

Industry Update

*News and Information for
Northwest Automotive Trade Association
Members*

Another successful Oregon SkillsUSA

NATA was proud to support this year's Oregon SkillsUSA 2023 Automotive Technology competitions – hosted once again by Portland Community College at its Sylvania Campus. Sixty Students from nine Oregon high schools competed.



The first place winner for Automotive Service Technology was Carson Dayton of Vale High School. The first place winner for Maintenance & Light Repair was Sean Welch of Aloha High School.

PCC has once again offered the perfect venue for this annual competition. The skills tests are created by the PCC Automotive Instructors. These tests align with the standards set down by the SkillsUSA organization. NATA could not produce this successful event without PCC's support.

Unlike other Oregon SkillsUSA trade competitions, our event for these students includes a catered lunch and enough swag for each student to fill a grocery bag. This year Lithia Motor Company funded the lunch provided to this group. Swag included gifts from: Lithia Motor Company, Beaverton Toyota, Subaru of America, Timken, Aisin, Advics, ASE, AAA Oregon/Idaho, Pacific Office Automation, Autozone, Carquest Technical Institute, Portland Transmission Warehouse, Expert Auto Repair, Tire Rack, Enterprise Rent A Car, Factory Motor Parts, Kaiser Permanente, and Healthnet.

We also couldn't do this without industry volunteers: Mike and Abe Burch of Expert Auto Repair, Ian Lomax of AAA Oregon/Idaho, Drew Marques of Benson Polytech High School, Tiffany Neil of Team Continental, Rick Lockwood of Clackamas Community College, Kylie Braack and Brittney Osterhout of Lithia Motor Company, Sean Morin and Kenny Bower of Lithia Buick GMC of Beaverton & Cadillac of Portland, Jimmy Schaberg of Lithia Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Portland, Brandon Godbey and Joe Davis of Lithia Mercedes Benz of Portland, Todd Weedman of Lithia Oregon City Subaru, Mark Dikeos of Pacific Motorsports, Scott LaPlante of Sherwood Auto Repair, Jim Waters and crew of Beaverton Toyota, Leslie Macaulay (retired from PCC). Additionally, many thanks to the PCC student volunteers.





PCC and NATA staff



Industry volunteers



Sean Welch of Aloha High School



Lunch was provided by Lithia Motor Company



Carson Dayton of Vale High School

ASE develops EV standards, tests

The National Institute for Automotive Service (ASE) has announced the creation of **Electric Vehicle Technician/Shop Personnel Electrical Safety Standards**. The purpose of the standards is to provide guidance, document, and establish electrical safety requirements, standards, procedures and safe work practices relating to the development of an electrically safe working area for service professionals in North America working on or around electrified vehicles (xEVs). The intent of these standards is to minimize exposure to these hazards and their associated impacts. These standards were developed in conjunction with vehicle manufacturers, aftermarket personnel and other electric industry subject matter experts. Visit www.ase.com/ev to see the standards.



“Technicians and service personnel must be properly trained to perform EV service and repairs. With the increasing popularity of electric vehicles, ASE has taken a proactive approach to support shops as they encounter more hybrid and EV repair opportunities,” said Tim Zilke, ASE president. “The new ASE EV testing and certification program was developed in conjunction with industry experts to help ensure that service professionals are well prepared to safely and effectively service these technologically advanced vehicles.”

In addition to the EV Standards, ASE has developed a new testing and certification program for all xEV vehicles including light duty and medium/heavy duty hybrid/electric vehicles (EV) based on the standards. This industry-developed program provides two options to certify shop owners and their employees based on their involvement with EVs. The certification tests are in pilot testing now and plans are to launch them shortly.

The two tests that will be available are:

xEV Electrical Safety Awareness Certification (Level One)

This certification is designed for anyone who may encounter an EV in the workplace. This includes identifying individuals who perform tasks in proximity of electric powered vehicles in sales, service, repair and/or related environments. Level One individuals require high-voltage electrical safety awareness to identify the hazards and reduce the associated risks when working on or near electric vehicles (xEVs) and/or near high-voltage components of electric powered vehicles.

Skills performed by Level One individuals may include: operating (driving) an electric powered vehicle; performing maintenance and repairs not related to high-voltage systems or their components; handling non-high-voltage components of electric powered vehicles; and encountering electric powered vehicles and/or high-voltage components of electric powered vehicles while performing job-related tasks.

xEV Technician Electrical Safety Certification (Level Two)

This certification is for service professionals, technicians or specialists who have received high-voltage electrical training; have demonstrated skills and knowledge related to the construction, operation and repair of electrically powered high-voltage vehicles; maintain an electrically safe working area and use required personal protective equipment (PPE). They have also received safety training to identify the hazards and reduce the associated risk.

Skills performed by Level Two repair professionals may include: evaluating and classifying the condition of the high-voltage battery and high-voltage electrical system; isolating the voltage from the high-voltage systems and checking the isolation from the supply; securing the high-voltage system against being activated; re-starting the high voltage system; performing general work on de-energized high-voltage systems and components; and assessing the risk of high-voltage vehicles that were involved in an accident.

To learn more about the new ASE light duty hybrid/electric certification program, visit www.ase.com/ev.

CCC Will Offer More Flexibility on 'Blending'

Body shops that use the CCC Intelligent Solutions estimating system will have the option to input their own refinish blend time or set their own default blend value beginning this fall based on a change [announced](#) last week by MOTOR Information Systems, developer of the underlying database used by CCC.



“Throughout the first quarter of 2023, MOTOR reviewed information from multiple sources and has concluded that the current formula reflects an estimate for one particular scenario but does not necessarily reflect the many variations encountered with modern vehicle finishes and design,” John McDonald, MOTOR’s product portfolio manager, said in a press release. “Given the variations among scenarios today, MOTOR believes that [blend time] should defer to the judgment of an estimator or appraiser following an on-the-spot evaluation of the specific vehicle and refinish requirements in question.”

The change, which will be published in October in MOTOR’s “Guide to Estimating” and then be implemented with CCC’s system by the end of the year, comes following a Society of Collision Repair Specialists (SCRS) [study](#) last year that the association believes demonstrated that blending takes more time than a full panel refinish, rather than the 50% less time currently allocated in the three major estimating systems.

The association has said it has been having “similar conversations” about the blend

formula with the other estimating system providers as well but neither has announced any change.

In-person Tech Training Throughout Oregon



IN PERSON TRAINING

Training for Automotive Service Professionals



NATA is proud to partner with Baxter Auto Parts to bring in-person training from the Carquest Technical Institute to Bend, Portland, Eugene and Medford throughout this year – and beyond.



More classes will be added as we move toward 2024. **NATA members can save hundreds of dollars on the registration subscription.**

The classes are each four hours and are held in the evening at each location.

A 1-year subscription to register is \$149 a month for up to six technicians, but NATA or TECHNet members can register for just \$99 per month. Contact NATA or Baxter Auto Parts for member information.

For more details and to register, download the flier for the location where you will want to attend: [Portland](#), [Bend](#), [Eugene](#) or [Medford](#).

NATA Collision Wage Survey Results

Thanks to all the collision shops who took part in the wage survey NATA recently completed. More than 40 Oregon shops participated, providing compensation data for more than 170 employees. In addition to annual total wages by various positions within the shop, the survey gathered data on pay plans, benefits offered, and shop designations (Gold Class, AAA approval, etc.)



We've distributed the results to participating shops, and you can [email us](#) if you have questions.

News From the DEQ

DEQ is offering in-person training in "Hazardous Waste Basics" and "Managing Common Waste: Used Oil, Batteries, Light Tubes, etc." Classes are open to all; however, space is limited in some locations.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for a schedule of individual class listings and registration contacts.



39th Annual 'Spring Classic' on May 14

Mother's Day is May 14, and you know what's always held the day before: The annual 'Spring Classic Auto Exhibit & Gathering' in Southeast Portland. This no-cost, all-are-welcome event is a great tradition. [Click here](#) for a flier with all the details, and we'll see you there!



Spray Technique and NESHAP Training

The [Pollution Prevention Resource Center \(PPRC\)](#) will offer free spray technique and NESHAP training in Vancouver, Portland and Eugene in the coming weeks. The Spray Technique Analysis and Research (STAR) program was developed by the Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa, and is focused on improving the overall efficiency of manual spray coating operations by enhancing the techniques of spray technicians. It is available at no charge thanks to a Department of Ecology grant.



The training consists of a 4-hour course, in two parts. The first part is a lecture talking about the various topics of STAR and NESHAP. The second part is a 3D Virtual Simulation where the painters will experience painting an autobody part to show examples of what was taught in the lecture. They will be able to see their transfer efficiency by color, notice triggering, and view overspray. The gun registers the angle of spray both vertically and horizontally to help the painter adjust to get as direct a spray on the product as possible. [Click here](#) to watch the promo video.

Minimizing overspray lowers cost as you reduce the volume of paint mixed and sprayed. It can reduce the release of toxic air emissions, potentially reducing health risks associated with exposure and impacts to the surrounding community.

[Click here](#) for details or to register for the sessions being held May 30 in Vancouver, May 31 in Portland, and June 1 in Eugene.

Trainings may be held at your location if you have a conference room with a flat-screen TV large enough for the entire room to view and can fit at least 15 people. Otherwise, we will find a location near you to reserve for the training. For more information, contact Mikey Strauhal, mstraahal@pprc.org, (206) 352 2050 ext. 105.

New Oregon Minimum Wages as of July 1

Oregon law requires an adjustment to the state's minimum wage be calculated each year based upon any increase in the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index ("CPI") for All Urban Consumers for All Items from March of the preceding year to March of the year in which the calculation is made.



Oregon Labor Commissioner Christina Stephenson has determined that as of July 1, the minimum wage rates will be:

- Standard Minimum Wage: \$14.20 per hour (up 70 cents, or 5 percent)
- Portland Metro Minimum Wage: \$15.45 per hour
- Non-Urban Minimum Wage: \$13.20 per hour

The Portland metro minimum wage is \$1.25 more than the standard minimum wage, and the non-urban minimum wage is \$1.00 less than the standard minimum wage.

Oregon employers are required to post minimum wage posters. Downloadable posters reflecting the new minimum wage rates as of July 1 will be available on BOLI's website free of charge by June 1.

AAA Oregon/Idaho is NATA's Newest Member

AAA Oregon/Idaho, which offers world-class 24-hour emergency road services, plus travel, insurance and financial services, recently has joined as a member of NATA. Welcome!



Has NATA Quoted Your Health, Dental or Vision Insurance?

Our NATA Health Plan rates are becoming more competitive all the time. Beginning this year, our health insurance plan will include life insurance coverage as well! Call Tere MacNaughton at (503) 253-9898 for quotes or more information.



Phones for sale

NATA has changed the phone system at our office, and has these gently-used Yealink T27G phones for sale. \$100 for all. Please call our office at (503) 253-9898 if you are interested.



In Need of an Apprentice?

Looking to hire a part-time or full-time apprentice from your local community college? [Click here](#) for a current list of



Schools Are the Wave of the Future

We know there is a staffing shortage across all areas of our industry. The way forward **REQUIRES** that we – the automotive business community – become involved in schools at both the secondary and post-secondary level.



Each month we bring you updates and announcements of hiring events, job openings, and other ways you can become involved (see below). Please engage with your local automotive programs. If you need contact information, call our office. At this time, our staff participates on nine advisory boards, facilitates four hiring events, speaks at multiple school events and sponsors the annual Oregon SkillsUSA Automotive Competition.

Here are just some of the opportunities to get involved:

Linn-Benton Community College will host “Dyno Days 2023” on May 19 and 20 at the college in Lebanon. [Click here](#) for a flier with more information.

Lane Community College is holding a ["Trades Expo & Open House"](#) on Saturday, May 20 in Eugene.

Control Tower is a regional program offered through Willamette Educational Service District. It serves Marion, Polk, and Yamhill County school districts with career-connected learning opportunities. It focuses on connecting education with industry to provide students with chances to explore and prepare for careers while they are in high school.

Control Tower is offering an opportunity for industry partners to become job shadow hosts. Job shadow hosts are added to a regional job board and are on standby for when a student applies for a job shadow with their specific company. They will then coordinate a date with the student and host them for a 2- to 8-hour experience. Partners must provide a safe environment as well as an engaging chance for students to learn about the daily work routines and requirements for a given career.

This is an excellent opportunity to promote your company and our industry while boosting your engagement with the community. This is also a great entry point into partnering with Control Tower on providing other experiences for students.

Check out the [Job Shadow Guide for Industry Partners](#) for more info on getting started, or contact Cassy Harris, Control Tower Engagement Specialist, at (503) 540-4420 (or email cassy.harris@wesd.org).

Schools Have Job Openings

Clackamas Community College is seeking a full-time automotive Instructor; please [click here](#) (and scroll down

to "Automotive Instructor") for more information or to apply.

Clackamas Community College also has an opening for a part-time instructor in its Auto Body/Collision Repair & Refinishing program. [Click here](#) for more details about the position and how to apply.



Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham is currently looking for a new full-time Ford instructor for its automotive program. [Click here](#)

for more information.

Clark College in Vancouver has an opening for a part-time lab tech in the Auto Department. The position involves working with the students, supervising lab assignments and some general tasks in the shop. Hoping to find someone with a flexible schedule. [Click here](#) for details, or contact: Dannie Nordsiden, Manager of Technician Development (360) 992-2566 (office or (360) 907-4053 (cell)



Portland Community College Sylvania Campus has an opening for a part-time Instructor in the Automotive Service Technology Department. [Click here](#) for more details.

Portland Community College Rock Creek Campus has an opening for a new full-time diesel faculty member. It is a full-time position with a three-term teaching assignment which means the instructor has summers off. [Click here](#) for more details.

Phoenix High School in Phoenix, Oregon, is looking for an Automotive Technology Teacher. [Click here](#) for more information.



Central Oregon Community College needs part-time automotive instructors during spring term this year. The school needs at least 2-3 people for spring term and likely moving forward into next year. Spring term

begins April 3 and ends June 15. However, many of our courses are "short courses," meaning the class will run from 7:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., Monday through Thursday, for four weeks. Some courses are even shorter, 2.5 weeks. Some are longer, spanning the entire 12-week term. So there is flexibility in the schedule for those are currently working in or running shops. [Click here](#) for details, or contact Jared Green, Automotive Instructor, (541) 383-7422.

Helpful Links To Oregon Agencies

If you're looking for information, help or training from Oregon regulators, here are the links you need:

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).





businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a free class covering basic management of such waste. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule.



EDUCATION

BENEFITS

CONSUMER INFO

SHOP HELP

INSURANCE

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