



Wayne County High School automotive service program gives students the skills they need to compete for auto technician jobs...



Wayne County High School, in Wayne County, Jesup, Georgia has always had a strong traditional automotive service program.

When the plans were drawn up for the new High School, it was decided to look at how the program could be upgraded to meet the demands of new technologies within the automotive industry.

Vocational Supervisor Kendall Keith continues the story:

“We decided to take the opportunity to expand our Automotive Service program to address the changes that we felt would be a part of the automotive industry in the future. Today’s auto technician will need to have a wide range of competencies that include IT Skills, Customer Relations and Hi-Tech Diagnostics Skills. Auto technicians of the future are going to need these skills if they are going to compete in the job market. Our new program was going to have to provide them the best chance of success.”

The AutoLAB in the new Wayne County School is an impressive facility that combines a three-bay autoshop with a hi-tech computerized classroom that is equipped with the LJ AutoLAB program.

From the number of computers you see when you walk in to the classroom, it is very obvious that the new program makes use of the latest instructional technology. Each of the AutoLAB modules addresses a different range of topics using a multimedia curriculum that is delivered on the computers.



Students work on real vehicles in the Wayne County High autoshop.



Students are able to work on computer-linked simulators that help them gain a hands-on understanding of automotive technology from vehicle septum electronics through to the operation of the ABS braking and vehicle diagnostics.

Other modules make use of special trainers that incorporate actual vehicle components that would be found on typical modern vehicles. These allow the students to safely explore vehicle systems before they conduct live-work projects in to the Automotive Service lab.

A series of specially designed job sheets can be printed out at each AutoLAB workstation. Students take these into the lab where they are able to complete the various activities on real vehicles. All the foundational knowledge the students need to complete the tasks are gained from the work in the modules.

According to Automotive Service Teacher, Ronald Williams, his students like working in the new program, they particularly like the multimedia curriculum and the student-centred learning mode of the program. He told us more about the way students respond to the new uses of learning and technology within the Automotive Service program:

“One of the best things about AutoLAB is the way I can keep the students involved, before we had AutoLAB it was hard to keep them on task just using textbooks, workbooks and quizzes. Now with the multimedia lessons that are linked to hands-on activities and live work projects, it's easy to keep them motivated.

Typically we have a large ratio of exceptional needs students that express an interest in our Automotive Service program. A number of these students have excelled in obtaining the necessary skills they need to be successful in an automotive service area. Some have even exceeded the mastery skill level of regular education students.

These accomplishments are attributed to the individual-paced manner in which AutoLAB class provides smaller amounts of material to our students. Instruction is presented to students in smaller attainable portions by means of a computer-delivered curriculum that checks frequently for student understanding.”

The computer delivery of the content in the lab is carried out by the LJ ClassAct Computer Managed Learning System. This provides a managed learning environment in which all student activities are tracked and graded automatically. Special reporting facilities allow Mr Williams to generate specific reports on individual students, showing their attainment against the curriculum, which has been mapped, to nationally recognised standards.

Ron Williams takes up the story:

“The ClassAct system is really easy to use and work with. I need to do some more work on how to really use the reports but I am going to do that this summer at the training in Atlanta. The students like the system, because they know exactly where they are and how their grades are.



Other modules make use of special trainers that incorporate actual vehicle components, such as this DIS (Distributorless Ignition System) trainer.



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At this time of year with only a week of school to go they are all very keen to review their work and see what grade they will receive for in the class.”

We asked Kendall Keith about the future vision for the Wayne County Automotive Technology Program:



"With the new facilities and our AutoLAB system Mr. Williams is projecting a very positive image to the students and instructional staff of Wayne County High School."

“ With the new facilities and our AutoLAB system, Mr. Williams is projecting a very positive image to the students and instructional staff of Wayne County High School. The community has expressed considerable interest in the program as well. It is our hope that the program will continue to grow and attract the type of students who are serious about preparing for a career in the automotive service field.

We are very interested in pursuing NATEF certification for our Automotive Service program. Mr. Williams has already obtained his Master Technician certification, which is an important part of the process. We feel that future purchases of equipment and expansion of our AutoLAB program to offer instruction in specialty areas of automotive service will enhance the program’s ability to obtain the necessary certification. Such certification is extremely important in recognizing the accomplishments of Mr. Williams and his students.

We are all really excited by this, we believe it’s the future for automotive programs and it will help our students get a good start in the job market or in articulation into other advanced programs.”

