

## California Green Transportation Collaborative -Spring 2012 Update

The California Green Transportation Collaborative made impressive gains in curriculum development and industry alliance building under a two-year California Labor and Workforce Development grant. Skyline College, with community college partners Contra Costa College (CCC) and Long Beach City College (LBCC), spearheaded Collaborative activities. Career Ladders Project (CLP) provided strategic and direct assistance to support Collaborative goals and accelerate innovation with community colleges statewide, while the Automotive Service Council of California (ASCCA) provided the Collaborative vital support, leadership and guidance.

CLP technical assistance helped establish and strengthen an Automotive Career Advancement Academy (CAA) on Skyline and CCC campuses. The CAA model increases foundational academic skills while simultaneously enrolling students in career technical training programs, thus serving as a pipeline to college and high wage careers for young adults facing academic and social barriers to post-secondary education and employment.

Approximately 80% of CAA students at Skyline and CCC have entered the Automotive Certificate Program; a few have obtained entry-level employment and continue their automotive studies. Skyline has also redesigned its Automotive Program to allow students flexible modular options aligned with ASE certifications to best advance their career. Securing internships or short-term/part-time employment is an important component of training, as these opportunities provide students access to much-needed real world experience. Interested shop owners and managers with the capacity to provide such invaluable opportunities are urged to contact the colleges to discuss possible options.

Curriculum expansion has allowed the colleges to offer the most up-to-date training. For example, at Skyline College, two new courses – Basic Hybrid Powertrains and Principles of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles – were developed and taught by Jack Rosebro of Perfect Sky, an industry expert in hybrid technology. Rosebro recruited Richie Young of Pat's Garage, a hybrid vehicle repair shop in San Francisco, and Kalon Behravesh, a retired Ford technician, to co-instruct. Skyline's first group of Advanced Hybrid students completed their certificates in December 2011 and enrollment in the Spring 2012's Basic Hybrid Powertrains courses included 14 independent shop owners seeking to accommodate growing numbers of HEV-driving clients. Additionally, Skyline is developing training for light duty battery electric vehicles, such as the Nissan Leaf. Response to the new courses has been positive; Adna Berryman of Peninsula Prime Motors in Burlingame observed that "The class has taken all the cloudiness out of working on the hybrid side of the vehicle," while Zim Gwee, owner of Topline Automobile, Inc., also of Burlingame, was able to diagnose a hybrid client's problem at his garage before even completing the course, and proclaimed, "I will recommend this class to other shops and technicians I know."

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-Zim Gwee, owner, Topline Automobile, Inc.

Alliance-building opportunities have strengthened the colleges' ability to further align college curriculum with industry. Building on industry connections, the Collaborative sponsored a Green Transportation event in June 2011 with Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal (California State Assembly Transportation Committee Chair) in Long Beach. The event highlighted government policies and industry trends affecting transportation alternatives in California, in particular electric vehicles at the Port of Long Beach. In northern California, CCC benefitted enormously from the April 2011 Bay Area Focus Group meeting. The Focus Group, comprised of 17 independent repair shop owners and managers, explored HEV growth trends and expectations from the aftermarket perspective. One notable result of the Focus Group was the addition of four new members to the CCC Advisory Committee: Tracey Renee (current ASCCA president), Dave Kemntz, Steve Marcus, and Jeff Stich. These new members are adding considerable value to the CCC automotive program.

The ongoing needs of the colleges' Automotive Programs offer specific opportunities for greater involvement from industry partners such as the ASCCA. Internships, scholarships, and/or entry-level employment for students are always welcome. Contributions to curriculum design to keep classes and standards modernized are also support opportunities. The donation of key equipment for technical training is yet another avenue of assistance that would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Theresa Rowland, TRowland@CareerLaddersProject.org for further information.