TECH PATHWAYS

Under the Hood Journal

November 2024

Brake Fluid: The Hidden Key to Safe Stopping

One of the most important but often overlooked parts of vehicle maintenance is brake fluid. This month, our pre-apprentices are hands-on with brake system maintenance, learning how to bleed brakes and replace worn fluid. Pictured here, Jacob, a pre apprentice, is bleeding the brakes of air due to the removal of the brake caliper. Since air compresses, unlike brake fluid, it disrupts Pascal's Law of fluid dynamics, affecting braking power and response time.

Brake fluid also degrades over time and is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs moisture from the air. This moisture not only reduces braking efficiency but can also corrode brake components. Just like engine oil, brake fluid has a recommended service interval that helps maintain vehicle safety. Our pre-apprentices master these concepts early, ensuring they can diagnose and service brake systems with precision and safety.

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Leadership Focus: Putting It All Together

As we wrap up our first 11 weeks of training, our pre apprentices are uniting everything they've learned to build a roadmap for their futures. This month's focus is about putting it all together—from discovering their "why" and core motivations to personal assessments and setting goals to win their self defined championships.

Before their Thanksgiving break, pre apprentices presented their plans (pictured above) to the Hanover Auto Team's leadership team, which includes the CEO, GM's and Department heads. They will share not only what Tech Pathways represents but who they are as future leaders in the field. This project is a big step toward their championship mindset, helping them move purposefully toward success in all areas of life.

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Special Visit from ASE Foundation's Ken Benson

Tech Pathways had the honor of hosting Mr. Ken Benson from the ASE Foundation during his annual visit. Ken has been a key supporter of our program since it was just a dream, and his enthusiasm for automotive education continues to inspire us all. This year, he spent time with our pre apprentices, sharing words of encouragement, captivating stories from the industry, and the importance of the path they've chosen.

The ASE Foundation, a nationally recognized organization, plays a vital role in shaping the future of automotive technicians. According to their website, their mission is to "educate, prepare and inspire a new kind of automotive service workforce. One that embraces innovation, today's workforce demands, and critical thinking." Ken and the ASE Foundation were instrumental in helping Tech Pathways gain approval as Pennsylvania's first and only Automotive Technician Apprenticeship Program, writing a powerful letter of support during our journey.

We are deeply grateful for Ken's visit and his continued belief in our mission to raise the next generation of skilled and innovative automotive technicians.

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What Our Current Apprentices Are Up To

This month, we are checking in with Apprentice Nathan at Hanover Nissan because he was just awarded a "Challenge Coin" from Shop Leadership! Challenge Coins are given to a Technician that has been exhibiting efforts above and beyond their normal work duties. His Service Manager, Drew, says Nathan has been a wonderful addition to their team- He is always willing to help out and fits our motto of making it fun again everyday through his joyful personality. Way to Go Nathan!

Tech Pathways Recruitment

Over the last several weeks, we welcomed students from more than 7 local schools to visit, explore, and tour Tech Pathways including the main campus of Hanover Auto Team(HAT). We love meeting the future generation of Technicians and we were blown away by their attentiveness, interest, and respect for what we do here at HAT! We can't wait to see those who signed up to shadow this fall and winter!

Exciting Upcoming Dates

- **Pre Apprentices Presentation to Leadership:** November 20
- **At-Home Study Days:** November 25 & 26
- **Tech Pathways Closed:** November 27-29; December 2; December 23-31, January 1

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For any questions or further information, please contact us at futureofauto@hanoverautoteam.com.

We look forward to another fantastic year of learning and growth together!