TECH PATHWAYS

Under the Hood Journal

March 2026

The Modern Technician: From Behind the Scenes to Front and Center

The role of the automotive technician is changing. For years, technicians worked behind the scenes, focused under the hood, with little to no interaction with the customer. While that model got the job done, it also created a gap. Customers didn't always understand what was being recommended, and as vehicle technology has advanced, that gap has only grown wider. Today's vehicles are more complex than ever, and without clear communication, it can sometimes lead to confusion or even mistrust, despite the best intentions.

That's why the modern technician is stepping forward. It's no longer just about fixing the vehicle, it's about building trust with the person who owns it. Technicians today are learning to communicate clearly through video inspections, live updates, and even social media.
At Tech Pathways, we intentionally build this into our training. With support from our Community Outreach Coordinator, **Haley Morgan**, students gain experience explaining what they see, why it matters, and how it impacts the customer. It's a new skillset, but an important one because the future of this industry belongs to technicians who can not only solve problems, but also connect with people. Plus, it can also be a fun and creative outlet for all involved. Check us out by zapping the QR code in the corner!!

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Better Together: Building a Championship Team

This month, our apprentices are learning an important leadership truth: **you are not meant to do this alone.** The people you surround yourself with play a major role in who you become. In the shop and in life, strong teams are built on relationships. Knowing one another, trusting one another, and pushing each other toward something greater.

Through our Everyday Champions Leadership training, apprentices are exploring the idea of "wingmen and wingwomen." Those teammates who go beyond friendship to provide strength, encouragement, and accountability. Just like in aviation, a wingman watches your back, helps you stay on course, and steps in when needed. These relationships are built intentionally through connection, leading by example, lifting others up, and helping each other grow.

As our apprentices continue their journey, they are challenged to identify who is in their corner and who they can support in return. Because championship-level growth doesn't happen in isolation, it happens when a team commits to getting better together.

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What Our Current Apprentices Are Up To

This month, our Apprentices took part in a 360 review. During the exercise, the students received feedback from their Service Advisors, Shop Foreman, Mentor Technician, Program Director, peers, and THEMSELVES! It was an amazing opportunity to learn and grow, *and* to hear about their strengths. We are thankful for such supportive staff that are as committed to these students as we are!

ASE Foundation Visit Inspires the Next Generation

Tech Pathways had the pleasure of welcoming our new local representative from the ASE Education Foundation, Mark Kozemko, for a recent visit with our pre-apprentices. Mark spent time in the classroom connecting with students, sharing his passion for the automotive industry, and offering encouragement as they continue developing their skills.

One highlight of the visit was Mark sharing personal stories about his love for restoring classic 1960s Mercury Cougars. Students were fully engaged as he showed photos and talked through the restoration process, bringing the craft of automotive work to life in a way that resonated with many of them.

The ASE Education Foundation continues to play an important role in supporting programs like Tech Pathways, helping to shape the future of the automotive workforce. We are grateful for Mark's time, his enthusiasm, and his investment in our students. His visit was a great reminder that the future of this industry is bright.

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10 Points of Separation, Escape Room Edition!

The Pre-Apprentices went on a "field trip" to Escape Confusion in Hanover- to apply to 10 Points of Separation and to HAVE FUN of course! The students split themselves into two groups and worked together to escape the Jurassic Room and the Jungle Room. Afterwards, they enjoyed some pizza and a recap of the day- things that went well, things they could have done differently, etc. All in all a very meaningful and FUN way to apply concepts they've been studying since the beginning of the school year.

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Exciting Upcoming Dates

- **Tech Pathways Closed:** April 2, 3, 6
- **At-Home Study Days:** April 10
- **Driven to Serve Event:** April 15
- **Important End of Year Days:**
    - Interviews for Employment: May 12-13
    - End of Year Celebration: May 14
    - Selections and Notifications sent: May 15
    - Sign Day Event: May 20

Stay Connected

Feel Free to send this to friends and family, and encourage them to sign up to stay informed: FOLLOW THIS LINK

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!