



PAAAF School Connection



PAAAF AYES Conference Report and AYES/ASE Partnership Overview

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The 2009 Pennsylvania Automotive Association Foundation (PAAAF) AYES conference was held at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. The conference was well attended and hailed by many attendees as one of the most productive AYES conferences. Many of the topics discussed were focused on the turbulent and changing automotive industry. Issues covered during the conference were the AYES/ASE partnership, industry conditions, the PAAAF, school and dealership partnerships, scholarships and current PDE regulations. Guests of the conference included Steven Jones of the Jones Family of Dealerships, Lancaster, PA, Paul Caulfield of the Dering Consultant Group, and Frank DiNatale of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Upcoming OAC Meetings

April 15, 2009 11 a.m.
Forbes Road CTC
Quentin Martin
quentinm@forbesroad.com

April 28, 2009 8 a.m.
Western Center for Tech
Paul Woodman
pwoodman@westerncenter.org

April 29, 2009 3 p.m.
CPI Bellefonte
Doug Stimely
dstimely@cpi.edu

Contact Melanie Bible with upcoming OAC dates.

A topic of importance and great interest to the attendees was the recent integration of AYES and ASE, two highly respected automotive technology training organizations. ASE is internationally recognized as a professional credentialing organization, and AYES is nationally recognized as a successful model for workforce development. Both organizations hold similar missions, focusing on the career development paths of automotive service technicians through:

- the training and development of students following the AYES school work model;
- teaching to NATEF skills sets; and
- developing and fostering existing partnerships that support the ASE/AYES mission at the local, state, and national levels.

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The goals of the partnership include the clarity of a common mission, the coordination of marketing and development activities, the streamlining of processes, the establishment of efficient operations, and cost reduction. Through this partnership, students and schools will continue to benefit from the many positive components of the AYES model.

Anne Shuman, Vice President/

Dealer, School, & PAAAF Relationships

The PAAF was fortunate to have Steven Jones of Jones Family of Dealerships, Lancaster, attend the conference this year. His comments regarding the current state of the industry and the changes that are sure to occur in the near future were both encouraging and informative. Mr. Jones discussed the technological advances that will take place in regard to hybrid vehicles and alternative fuels, noting that the skill level of technicians will need to change, and the educational bar must be raised in order to keep up with industry standards and training.

Mr. Jones opined that, due to the negative effects of the financial crisis on the vehicle sales industry, there will be fewer dealerships when the current economic downturn ends. However, those remaining will be much stronger, and the need for trained technicians will increase.

The administrators and instructors discussed with Mr. Jones ways to add components of hybrid technology to the curriculum as well as opportunities to strengthen and maintain engagement between the schools and the dealerships in their areas.

Paul Caulfield of the Dering Consultant Group joined the group Wednesday morning for an audience engagement session. During the session the attendees conveyed the needs of the schools and what they consider to be the most beneficial aspects of the AYES program. The schools were particularly concerned with creating awareness about programs that the PAAF offers, such as the PAAF Apprenticeship Programs, scholarships and tool grants.

Attendees also indicated that they would like PAAF to provide updates regularly about the state of the automotive industry and developments with the AYES program.

Further discussion about hybrid vehicle training and alternative fuels training brought about suggestions of class fieldtrips to the dealerships, so students may experience hands-on training with new technologies. Providing introductory educational classes, whether in the class room or by virtual training, on hybrids and other alternative fuel technologies as well as basic corresponding safety knowledge, were issues which sparked interest.

Instructors and administrators stressed the importance of the mentor/intern training and the necessity to maintain those acquired relationships. The student work journals are also considered a valuable tool in maintaining an accurate history of the student's performance during the dealership experience. Other suggestions offered were continued access to OEM websites, access to online information services, access to updated equipment, the establishment of better relationships with shop and service managers, and a clear and concise explanation of AYES and apprenticeship and how it will benefit the schools and students. Increased communication and dissemination of program brochures from the PAAF was also recommended by conference attendees.

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~ Please contact the PAAF staff
with any questions, comments,
or concerns.

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Melanie Bible at
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The group agreed that the AYES model, across the board, has proven to be a valuable asset to all schools, and provides the automotive industry with “elite” technicians. PAAF will continue to support this model and the AYES/ASE partnership and the many advantages that accompany the model.

Finally, Frank DiNatale of the Career and Technical Education division of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, helped wrap up the conference with updates on student occupational competency testing in compliance of Perkins IV and NOCTI preparation. The goal of Perkins IV and the new provisions is to ensure competitiveness in a global economy and to provide an easier transition from secondary to post-secondary schools. If you have questions regarding Perkins IV please contact Frank DiNatale at (717) 783-6981 or fdinatale@pde.state.pa.us.

Skip Wagner of PAAF offered a brief overview of the newly implemented Programs of Study (POS) for automotive technology. Information regarding Programs of Study and the list of tasks required to comply with the Perkins IV, Programs of Study can be found at the Pennsylvania Department of Education website, www.pde.state.pa.us, under the K-12 tab and Career and Technical Education.

PAAF Scholarships

The focus of the PAAF is to fund and provide education and training for individuals to develop the skills necessary to work in the new retail motor vehicle industry in Pennsylvania. In keeping with this mission, scholarships will be awarded in 2009 to young people who have an interest in a career in the new retail automotive industry.

Scholarships are available to high school seniors who are currently part of the AYES program, former students who have graduated from the AYES program after May 31, 2008, PAA Registered Apprentices and individuals currently enrolled in dealer sponsored manufacturer specific training programs.

PAAF Scholarship applications are available online at www.paa-foundation.org. The completed application and all requested information must be returned to PAAF by **April 10, 2009**. Recipients will be notified by mail by May 31, 2009.

Educational Opportunities

PAA has many educational opportunities available to our members and schools including: webinars, in-dealership training, and educational seminars. Visit www.paa.org for more information. Information on educational, apprenticeship programs through PAAF is available at www.paa-foundation.org www.paa-foundation.org.

HACC will conduct free summer workshops which will focus on new Toyota models, hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, wheel alignment concerns, terminals and connectors and global diagnostics. The dates of the workshops are June 22-25, 2009, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Neil Bailey will keep all schools apprised of when registration begins.

Want to distribute brochures on the PAAF Apprenticeship programs to your students? Contact Melanie Bible at mbible@paa.org to request brochures today.

PAA Foundation. 1925 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 1 -800-242-3745

Apprenticeship programs are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor and the PA Apprenticeship Training Council. The official registration and financial information of the Pennsylvania Automotive Association Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.