

DEAR PARENT,

If your student loves cars and has expressed an interest in pursuing a career in the automotive service or collision repair industry, read on!

The automotive industry—which has changed drastically in recent decades—has a high demand for talented, qualified professionals who are passionate about cars. Many parents may have a perception that auto work isn't a practical long-term career option or better to remain a hobby. The truth is that there are many great reasons to support and encourage your student to pursue their passion for cars in this rewarding and well-paying field.

- 1. Strong income potential.** Many entry-level automotive careers start around \$30,000 per year, and professionals can quickly increase their income as they expand their knowledge. Most senior-level employees earn upward of \$60,000 and top performing professionals can earn six figure incomes.
- 2. Advanced technology.** Today's cars are high-tech computers on wheels and auto professionals use tools like electronic diagnostic equipment just as much as a wrench. Vehicles are loaded with advanced electronics like lane departure warnings and pedestrian detection systems with new advances being made every day. If your son or daughter enjoys high-tech, the auto industry is guaranteed to deliver. On average, high-end vehicles incorporate more than 100 million lines of software code and all that technology will require experts to keep it operating and on the road at peak performance. (To put that in perspective, an F-35 fighter jet has only around 25 million lines of code!)
- 3. Variety of career paths.** No matter their personality, there is a career that will fit the style and interests of your student. Hands-on positions involve working directly with cars, while service-oriented positions are available and focus on interacting with customers and guiding projects through the auto shop. Career paths include auto service tech, collision tech, paint tech, service advisor, collision estimator, auto shop owner, parts professional and auto machinist. Professionals can also choose from a wide range of places to apply their skills, including collision and mechanical repair facilities, educational institutions, insurance companies, manufacturers, distributors, car dealerships and parts stores.
- 4. Rapid path to success.** Students can finish their automotive education and get started in the industry in just two years. High demand in the industry means that students often find work while still in school.

Upon graduation, professionals are equipped with real-world marketable skills they can take with them anywhere in the world. Within just a couple years, automotive professionals increase their knowledge of vehicle maintenance, diagnostics, and service skills allowing their paycheck to increase too.

As a parent, you play an essential role in helping your student determine what he or she will do after high school graduation. With the auto industry's rewarding work, earning potential and high demand for quality jobs, we hope you'll help your student find out more about a career in this thriving field.

For more information, visit CarCareers.org, or contact us at info@carcareers.org.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Careers in Auto Repair & Service (MNCARS)