

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUCCESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Nearly seventy percent of high school graduates enroll in higher education, with approximately two-thirds of those students enrolled at a four-year university.

However, a four-year degree no longer guarantees students a path to financial success. With a changing economy and job market, more and more opportunities exist for those with specific skills to fill a need in a variety of high-quality professions. When students look to you for help in making decisions that affect their future, consider the wide range of options available at two-year technical programs including automotive service and collision repair.



Demand in the U.S. economy has shifted toward specialized labor and employees who hold a two-year degree.

- Many students who enroll in higher education drop out. In addition, up to 50 percent of students who earn a bachelor's degree are underemployed in today's job market.
- Harvard University predicts that by 2018, only 33 percent of careers will require a bachelor's degree, whereas 66 percent of careers will require a program certificate, associate degree or high school education.



As influencers of students, we need to share information with them about well-paying, high-demand careers that align with their interests and aptitudes—which doesn't always mean a four-year degree.

- Today's market is desperate for highly qualified, skilled employees.
- Technical programs provide students with marketable skills that prepare them for many of the fastest-growing careers in America. Within the automotive industry, this includes jobs like a collision estimator, automotive technician, machinist and service advisor.



COMMUNICATION CRITICAL THINKING TECHNOLOGY

By exploring high-demand careers that appeal to students' interests, talents and abilities, we can prepare them to enter the workforce with real-world skills that offer the opportunity to find meaningful employment and career advancement.

Sources:
https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/4740480/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011-1.pdf
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs6nQpVl164>
<http://www.cte.mnscu.edu/aboutus/mission/documents/Minnesota-CTE-Overview-2016.pdf>



To be successful in skilled careers, having a drive to learn is key.

Allowing students to pursue careers that align with their interests can provide them with an excitement to continue their career journey.

- A career-oriented education helps students see the connection between the classes they're taking and the real world, encouraging them to stay in school.

Students who have the skills to perform well in technical careers have far more earning potential in those careers than in jobs that might have a higher pay range but don't align with students' interests or abilities.

- On average, associate degree holders earn between \$27,000 and \$68,000, according to The College Board, "Education Pays 2010," and employees who excel in their field earn even higher salaries.
- Developing skills in areas that interest students is more valuable than earning a degree in something, just to have it.
- Career and technical education opens the door to a bright future of continued advancement as employees gain experience and move toward their dream career.

To find out more about careers in the automotive service and collision repair industry, students can visit CarCareers.org to see where their skills and passion are in demand today.

