Sharing Success Stories
Greetings from Pennsylvania College of Technology

Student’s Name: Christopher Hopkins
OCVTS Program: Automotive Diesel
Instructor: Greg Cullen

High School: Southern Regional
Center: Jackson
Class of: 2017

In Chris’ own words: I chose OCVTS because it was a perfect fit for me for what I wanted to do after high school. I could go to school and still get hands-on experience and learn a lot on a daily basis in a shop environment, which is hard to do while in school. Now, I am continuing my education at Pennsylvania College of Technology in the Ford ASSET Program. This turned out to be a good game plan. I enjoy going to work every day because it is a new challenge each day. No matter how frustrating it may be at times, for me the best feeling is watching a truck that I repaired drive away.

If you are thinking of a career in the auto industry, you will need a general knowledge of vehicles and the fundamentals of how they work. It also in important to be a good listener so when the customer tells you what the vehicle is or is not doing, you will have an understanding in addressing the problem. You should also have a good work ethic, be motivated, and have problem-solving skills. I never pictured myself working at a dealership or working for Ford, but sometimes life has a way of changing your views on things. Work hard and do not take any opportunities for granted.

Greg Cullen was delighted to share the story about one of his successful students. “Chris was a student that came to the program with a great attitude, work ethic, and a desire to learn. He was bright and outgoing, and got along well with the other students. Over the course of two years, Chris applied himself in the classroom and during shop activities. He developed the skills necessary to succeed as an entry-level technician, and gained confidence in his abilities. He wanted a career working for John Deere tractor. His father had John Deere equipment on their farm in New Egypt. Chris saw firsthand his father’s frustration as the equipment became more complex, computer controlled, and difficult for his father to repair and maintain. Continuing his education was Chris’ plan. A technical college in Pennsylvania, Penn College, offered a two year associates degree program. Ford Motor Company designed the program. Chris would attend class at college for ten weeks, and then work ten weeks at a sponsor Ford dealership. This cycle would repeat over the two years. Upon graduation, Chris would have Ford factory training certificates, a career with Ford, and an Associate Science degree. Win Win!”

Chris (pictured left) posing for photo at Penn College. One can see why he enjoys auto tech, check out their shop. Cooks send us photos of delicious foods they prepared, mechanics send photos of clean, operational motors they repaired. Love it!