

NEWS RELEASE

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NATEF recertifies PTC's Automotive Technology program

PINE CITY, Minn. – Passionate faculty, excellent safety practices, a large number and range of specialty tools, a clean shop and classroom, student cooperation, the support of administration and a strong board are all to thank for a successful recertification of the Pine Technical College Automotive Technology program by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation this month.

NATEF was founded as an independent, non-profit organization with a single mission: To evaluate technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry and recommend qualifying programs for certification (accreditation) by ASE, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.

Certified reviewer Robert Engberg of Dakota County Technical College led a site visit of Pine Technical College to determine whether the program would be recertified. Industry representatives Walter Schwartz of Mora Chevrolet Buick and Bob Scott of Scottie & Son Auto Center rounded out the NATEF committee for Pine Technical College's recertification visit.

The NATEF committee reviewed program standards such as customer vehicle work, written policies, program training costs, equipment, facilities, curriculum and more. Additionally, they contacted employers who hired PTC graduates and talked with students to gain an understanding of the success and competency of PTC's Automotive Technology program. The visit concluded on a positive note with a list of strengths and a recommendation for recertification. NATEF certification lasts for five years, and NATEF will revisit PTC in 2015 for its next recertification.

The Pine Technical College Automotive Technology program prepares individuals to apply technical knowledge and skills to repair, service and maintain all types of automobiles. Students are instructed in brake systems, electrical systems, engine performance, engine repair, suspension and steering, automatic and manual transmissions and drive trains and heating and air condition systems. The program prepares students for employment in dealership and specialized and independent automotive service centers. Students may pursue a 30-credit certificate, 60-credit diploma or 70-credit Associate of Applied Science Degree.

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