

Interstate Ford Honored as WCCC Employer of the Month for January 2011

Warren County Career Center recently honored Interstate Ford as the January 2011 Employer of the Month. Over the past six years, the car dealership's body shop has hired 10 WCCC students from the Automotive Collision program, and has also provided 30-day internship experiences for all Automotive Collision students.

Body Shop Manager Diania Ringer said she enjoys serving on the school's advisory committee and helping with the program. "The students come in with a lot of knowledge when we hire them, but it is still a learning process for them," she said. "They have learned the basic skills in their lab, but then in a real business they learn time management and how to work under pressure, which is very critical in our industry."

WCCC student Mike Moore, Franklin, is a current employee at Interstate as he finishes his senior year of high school. "It is way different working in the body shop from our experience in the lab," he said. "We see many different types of repairs in the body shop and learn to perform more extensive repairs."

"My students learn the basics in my lab, and then they learn how to use those skills in the shop," WCCC Instructor Virgil Neal said. "I could not do what I do without my business advisors. They help to provide opportunities for my students and were with me to assist with the recertification process for NATEF (National Automotive Technician Education Foundation)."



Pictured from left, WCCC Secondary Education Director Gary Patton, WCCC Treasurer Karen Royer, WCCC Superintendent Maggie Hess, Automotive Collision Business Advisor Nick Fazio of State Farm, Diania Ringer of Interstate Ford, WCCC Adult Education Director Tom Harris, WCCC Senior Mike Moore of Franklin, and WCCC Automotive Collision Instructor Virgil Neal.