



Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Sharing Success Stories

Owning Your Own Business

Student: Kevin Bara

Name of Business: Experienced Automotive, Lanoka Harbor, NJ

of years in business: 10

Website: experiencedautomotive.com

Class of: 1998

Instructor: Marco Esposito

Program: Automotive Technology

Center: Waretown

In Kevin's own words...People often ask me how did I get started in the automotive business. It seems like only yesterday that I did start my career in the auto industry as a lube tech at a local auto repair shop. Then I was hired at Pep Boys in Toms River where I worked my way up to an ASE certified master technician. While there for eight years, I met and worked with Rodney Grady, my business partner. We opened Experienced Automotive and have now been in business for a decade.

To any one starting their own business, I would say treat every customer fairly and honestly. I treat every customer's car as if it was my own. Owning your own business is not a 9 to 5 job. After you close, there is still plenty of paperwork, cleaning up, etc., and worth every minute!

To the future graduates, I would suggest to never stop learning and training. Automotive technology is changing every day. You need to hone your electrical, math, and computer skills, too. Real hands-on experience and an ASE certification is what I look for when hiring a tech.

Enough about me, time to give thanks. Marco Esposito and OCVTS gave me the training and skills to become an ASE master technician, a NJ state emission repair tech, a NJ licensed inspector and a proud owner of a local business! If you are a "gear head" like me and you eat, sleep, and breathe cars, then OCVTS can help your automotive dreams come true. I highly recommend Mr. Esposito's Automotive Technology class!

When talking about Kevin, Marco Esposito beamed with pride. "Becoming an automotive technician was something Kevin wanted to do his whole life. Kevin was a motivated student, and excelled in all areas of my program. Kevin was a bronze medal winner at SkillsUSA competition and a state finalist in the Ford AAA competition in auto skills. Today, he is a successful business owner, loving what he does and doing it well! Life is good. Kevin also gives back to OCVTS by serving on my advisory board. He is truly a success story!"



(Pictured: Experienced Automotive Shop, article promoting new business, voted Best in Ocean County award)