

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Buy Local, Hire Local

Sharing Success Stories



Student: Joseph Gagliardi
OCVTS Program: Automotive Technology
Instructor: Jay Houle
Employer: Pine Belt Nissan, Toms River, NJ
Website: nissan37.com

Class of: 2014
Center: Brick

In Joe's own words... Having completed two years in the automotive technology class, I learned many things. I am grateful to Mr. Houle for teaching me the correct techniques in auto repair, and, more importantly, the value of safety. I had a variety of hands-on experience, and of course, plenty of bookwork. With the knowledge that I obtained at vocational school, upon graduation I felt confident that I was ready, willing and able to enter the workforce.

For the past eighteen months, I have been employed at Pine Belt Nissan in Toms River. I was hired as a lube tech and have worked my way up to a position as a mechanic. I am still learning, earning certifications and advancing within the company. Having a full benefit package is an added bonus. I consider myself fortunate to be working in a face paced environment, working on all makes of cars, and working with wonderful people that I really like.



“At Pine Belt Nissan, we put customer service first. We also pride ourselves in community involvement. We are pleased to have Joe, an OCVTS graduate, as part of our team because he contributes to our goal,” stated Tom Linkin, Director of Service and Parts.

Having had many graduates working in dealerships all along Route 37, Jay selected Joe Gagliardi as this year's success story. He touted, “Joe was a model student that displayed a mature attitude, and a desire to learn. Being trained in our hands-on shop not only taught Joe the fundamentals in automotive technology, also built his confidence to take these skills and perform them in the real world. Working at Pine Belt Nissan, he is soaring and I am so happy for him!”