

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Buy Local, Hire Local

Sharing Success Stories



Student: James Heeney

OCVTS Program: Automotive Technology

Instructor: Louis Gauvain

Employer: Downs Ford Inc. Toms River, NJ

Website: downsford.com

Class of: 2016
Center: Waretown

In James' own words...I was taught by the best teacher, Mr. Gauvain. He taught me real life scenarios of what it would be like working in a dealership. I also learned that hard work leads to success. Taking his class gave me a good background in cars and how to repair them. Going to Downs Ford and being hired by them through OCVTS was a huge milestone for me, and I am so happy working there. I am also proud of all my hard work that got me hired. I am learning the Ford's way of doing things while getting familiar and gaining more experience in repairing cars and trucks for the Ford Company. Downs Ford is a great place to work. I enjoy going to work every day, and I am excited about my future as a mechanic.

The staff at Downs Ford in Toms River had some kind words to say about James. "It has been a pleasure working with James. The skills that he learned at the vocational school have been a major part of his success here at Downs Ford."



Lou Gauvain who taught James those automotive skills wanted to share his thoughts. "James started off as an average student, not knowing for sure what he wanted to do. By the time he entered his second year, there was definitely a change. He was more focused and had a clear direction about his desire to be an auto mechanic. He worked hard throughout his second year. He began asking about job opportunities and wanting to know more information about a job at Downs Ford (my former employer).

James attended a Ford Career Day at the Brick Center where he was able to meet and talk to potential employers from different Ford dealerships in the area. He interviewed with Downs Ford, and with my recommendation and his perseverance, he was hired. He continues his employment at Downs Ford. I have no doubt that James will succeed as an employee and as a trained technician."