

Ocean County Vocational Technical School

Working in the Field

Sharing Success Stories



Student: Will Wristley

OCVTS Programs: Automotive Technology and Collision Repair

Instructors: Marco Esposito, George Hurley and Michael Lundin

Employer: New Jersey Turnpike Authority, Barnegat, NJ

Class of: 2004

Centers: Waretown and Jackson

High School: Southern Regional

In Will's own words...When I was in high school, I wanted to attend OCVTS as soon as possible because I have a passion for cars. I guess you can say it is in my blood. Unfortunately, I was waitlisted. The classes were so full. So, imagine how excited I was when I made it into the Automotive Technology Program and continued on to the Collision Repair Program. Obviously, I could not get enough of the automotive industry. I am so thankful that I did complete both programs. I learned a lot from the fundamentals to the advanced automotive skills and the proper way to perform auto bodywork. What I liked most about both programs were the teachers and having the opportunity to experience hands-on learning.

Vocational school prepared me to become a successful technician. It also helped me to be goal oriented. Because of OCVTS, I also had the honor of placing third in the SkillsUSA Auto Body Competition, an exciting event for a teenager. Today, I am a New Jersey State Emissions Inspector, an ASE certified technician, and a Class A CDL driver. Looking back at my time at OCVTS, I wanted to be like all of the guest speakers and teachers before me. I strived to make my family and teachers proud. I hope I did!



To students thinking of pursuing a career in the automotive industry, I would like to offer some advice. It is a good trade to be in. If you work hard, be on time, be respectful, and be honest, then you can become successful.

It was not easy getting hired by the turnpike. It took me over a year to get an interview, but some things are worth the wait! I work with a great group of people in an industry that I love! (As you can see by the smile Will's face, he enjoys working for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.)

"Will Wristley was a student I had the pleasure of working with as I started my teaching career. I remember when I first met Will; he had a very cool 1986 Mazda RX. He installed a 350 small block Chevy engine in it and painted the car lime green. He still owns that car! Will began his vocational training in the Automotive Technology Program at the Waretown Center. After graduating, he returned as a post-secondary student in the Auto Collision Program and graduated in 2004. He was undecided at the time as to whether he wanted to be an auto mechanic or an auto body technician. He was proficient in both. He went on to be highly successful in the automotive field. Will has also been an OCVTS night instructor for auto tech. Will has been gainfully employed with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority as a master technician. In his day-to-day work, he has used both his skill sets as a mechanic, welder, and auto body technician. We are still in contact with each other, and I am so proud of all of Will's accomplishments!