

New Hunterdon Polytech Automotive, Equipment Operator Program For 16 & Over Pays While You Learn

**Register At The Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center Offices
In Flemington or Somerville.**

Get paid to go to school.

A new grant funded apprenticeship program, available to participants ages 16 and older, will begin this month in the Hunterdon County Vocational School District (HCVSD) that will allow participants to get paid while learning a lifelong career skill.

The fall program will focus on automotive, auto body and heavy equipment operator career training at no cost to the student, and will be conducted at the Polytech Central Campus at 10 Junction Road in Flemington. The fall semester tentatively starts on Sept. 16, and classes will meet two days a week, from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

“One of the key values of Polytech for the County is to provide opportunities for individuals to prepare for the workforce. The fact that this grant funded program offers that opportunity for free, that students can also get paid while learning, and that it is open to those 16 and over, is bringing Hunterdon County’s program to the next level,” Freeholder Board Director Suzanne Lagay, the Board’s liaison for the Vocational School, stated.

In addition to being free, participants will be paid \$12 an hour to attend class and take part in a job internship as part of the program. Each participant will be paid \$1,620 during the course of the program, as long as attendance and participation requirements are met. Transportation and babysitting costs are not covered.

Dr. Todd Bonsall, Superintendent of the Vocational School, said, “HCVSD looks forward to preparing students for careers in high demand industries such as automotive technology, heavy equipment operations, as well as construction trades, that will provide opportunities to earn and learn.”

“Apprenticeships can serve as the gateway for well-paying careers,” said Paul Grzella, interim director of the Greater Raritan Workforce Development Board, which serves Hunterdon and Somerset counties. “New Jersey is investing in these career pathways in a variety of new program around the state. And prospective students, age 16 and over, don’t have to be a resident of the county where the program is offered to take advantage of these new programs. It really pays to learn more about these opportunities.”

To take part in the program, participants must register with the Greater Raritan One-Stop Career Center, which has offices at 6 Gauntt Place, Flemington and 27 Warren St., second floor, in Somerville. Participants also must be available to work the job internship in the last three weeks of the program.

In this Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) state grant-funded program, up to 18 students will do the following:

Weeks 1 to 6: Spend two weeks (total 15 hours) in each of the following areas: Autobody, Automotive and Heavy Equipment Operation

Weeks 7 to 14: Choose one of the programs, and spend 40 hours in instruction/training

Weeks 15 to 18: Participate in a job internship.

The PACE program also will be offered in the spring in the following areas: electrical, plumbing and either construction or welding, with the same schedule starting on January 27.

For more information, visit www.hcvsd.org, call 908-284-1444, Ext. 2133, or email dlarkins@hcvsd.org.