



Contact: Arden Ainley, Public Information Director  
(360) 416-7623 | [arden.ainley@skagit.edu](mailto:arden.ainley@skagit.edu)  
2405 East College Way | Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 9, 2010

### **Skagit Valley College Automotive Technology program receives national certification**

Skagit Valley College's Automotive Technology program has received re-accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) for another 5 years. The program has been certified in: engine Repair, Engine Performance, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Heating and Air Conditioning, Brakes, Suspension and Steering, Manual Transmissions, and Automatic Transmissions.

To achieve this coveted recognition, the program underwent a rigorous evaluation by the NATEF. Nationally accepted standards of excellence in areas such as instruction, facilities, and equipment were used.

"This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents," said Donald Seyfer, NATEF Chair. "Because this program increases cooperation between education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that Skagit Valley College graduates will be employable as entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by SVC, the motoring public will benefit since better repair technicians will join the work force." Upon completion of the evaluation, NATEF recommended that SVC be re-certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). ASE is a national non-profit organization which tests and certifies repair technicians, in addition to certifying automotive training programs.

Scott Hall, SVC Automotive Technology department chair added, "During the past few months, we have worked closely with NATEF to make certain that our program would meet strict industry standards, and now we are delighted to continue our relationship as a ASE certified training program. Students will be assured of a quality education, and shop owners will be assured of getting quality job applicants."

Rapid advancement of new technology has created a need for highly skilled automotive technicians. Career choices include new car dealerships, independent repair shops, specialty shops and fleet agencies.

The SVC Automotive Technology program includes an 18-bay repair shop, the largest in Skagit County. Students in the program gain hands-on experience in a shop designed as a real-world automotive work site using state-of-the-art shop technology on late model vehicles. In addition to being accredited by NATEF, the SVC Automotive Technology program was rated as the #1 automotive training program in the nation in 2003 by the Automotive Industry Planning Council.

Spring Quarter at Skagit Valley College begins Tuesday, March 30. For more information about Automotive Technology, as well as other courses and programs, contact SVC Admissions, 360-416-7697, [admissions@skagit.edu](mailto:admissions@skagit.edu), or [www.skagit.edu](http://www.skagit.edu).

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