ATI’s New Video Studio
ATI Awarded “Best for Vets 2014, Military Times
Auto Program’s New Superflow Chassis Dyno
After evaluating schools throughout the nation, Military Times selected Advanced Technology Institute in their “Best for Vets” category. Editors evaluated each school using a variety of criteria, including statistics commonly used to track student success. These criteria include institutional culture, student support, academic quality, academic policies and financial aid. These are all factors that veterans list as being integral to academic success.

We want our veterans to be successful. Many have fulltime jobs and/or families, so they are very busy. We are always looking for ways to help them work through challenges that may arise so that they can continue toward their goal of graduation. ATI is proud to be selected in the Military Times “Best for Vets” category and to be the institution of choice to further educational goals for our local vets.

Dick Daigle

Plenty of Excitement at ATI’s Open House

Prospective students toured ATI during the Spring Open House on March 15th. There were elaborate displays and plenty of food and fun.

Many of the visitors were from out-of-state and it didn’t take much to impress them with the beauty of Va. Beach.

Thanks to all ATI students who volunteered to make our visitors feel welcome and show them around the ATI campus. ATI’s next Open House will be on June 21st from 10am to 1pm. Tell all of your friends to come on out and join us for a day of fun!
SuperFlow Chasis Dyno

The upgraded Chasis Dyno for the school’s High Performance Program is currently up and running as of February 19, 2014. Although a few minor modifications to the installation need to be completed, the unit is performing flawlessly at this time. With the new Data Acquisition System and Software upgrades more precise engine/vehicle dynamic measurements can be made, that will allow students to see how engine/vehicle configuration changes affect overall performance characteristics. Students can learn how to analyze the new information and utilize it, to aid in proper engine management system tuning. The unit also creates less noise in the shop environment which helps to enhance shop time and instruction for other classes by being less disturbing. I believe the upgrade will be a tremendous asset to the school for many years.

Stan Wise, Auto Program Coordinator

Norfolk Southern Railroad Visits the Heavy Vehicle and Welding Classes

Ben Jesse, recruiter for Norfolk Southern Railroad made a visit to ATI December 2013. Ben talked with Heavy Vehicle and Welding Technology students. He talked about different jobs in the railroad industry and the skill sets required for each job, as well as working conditions and the pay rate for each job.

Students found the presentation interesting and informative. Ben explained that many new employees with the railroad start out as conductors. Conductors are required to work through a training program. Once trained they must be available on short notice and be prepared to work long hours and travel with the train. Students were surprised to hear that before becoming a conductor with the railroad Ben had been a high school teacher from the western part of Virginia. Ben said although he enjoys his current job as a recruiter, he misses working on the train.

Kirk Clayton, Director of Career Services

Scholarship Opportunities for ATI HVAC Students

Students: Be on the lookout for information about upcoming scholarships from Air Conditioning Contractors of America/Hampton Roads (ACCA). They offer two scholarship opportunities in the form of $500 to HVAC students who are willing to complete the required application and meet all requirements. ATI student, Randy Brogan, former award recipient is pictured standing with Scott Kellam, President of the ACCA.
New Equipment in Welding

Welding has recently added some new equipment to keep up with the student demand. A new track torch has arrived, making two separate cut stations to eliminate student down time waiting for equipment. Students also got some fabrication experience building the table for it as well. Also new in the lineup is another sander for material prep and finishing, and a new Lincoln Hydroguard electrode oven. Come by and check out the great work our welders are producing.

Ric Rosenberger, Interim Welding Program Coordinator

Industry Based Continuing Ed

Working in a technical field one needs to always stay on top of the newest equipment, codes and trends in the industries. You may have noticed that the Miller Store Road campuses have been busy recently with outside contractors hosting training for technicians at our campus.

NTT – National Technology Transfer held a class for electrical safety training that was attended by various electrical industry technicians from several states.

Briggs and Stratton - recently held two training classes on their back up power generating systems that were attended by HVAC and Electrical contractors from various states.

Education is never ending!

Rich Hlke, HVAC and Refrigeration Program Coordinator

ATI Hosted HVAC Skills USA Competition

On January 10, 2014 ATI hosted the HVAC Skills USA competition for local High School Students. There were a total of 9 contestants representing high school VoTech centers from Norfolk, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

Students were required to take a general knowledge exam followed by 5 stations of HVAC skills that they had to complete and diagnose in a set time period.

Contestants were required to build a copper tubing project that consisted of cutting, swaging, bending and brazing copper tubing as well as diagnosing faults inserted in a gas furnace, heat pump and air conditioning equipment.

Congratulations to the winners shown below from left to right, 3rd place: John Edwards, Great Bridge High School, 1st place: Dylan Fink, Hickory High School, and 2nd place: Samuel Conner, Kellam High School.

Special thanks to ATI instructors, Mr. Bartz, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Philpott, Mr. Wall and Mr. Wise for helping judge and set up the competition.

Rich Hlke, HVAC and Refrigeration Program Coordinator
New Trainer for AUT230

The Advanced Diagnostics and Emissions class has added the ATECH model 2675 Toyota OBD II Trainer (On Board Diagnostics) to its class. This new trainer will give the students 35 different activities. All of the Activity programs are designed to have students follow a routine that will lead them to the correct diagnosis by following a given path. They will be using scan tools and multi-meters for their diagnostic lessons.

Edwin Miller, ATI Auto Instructor

Welding Plasma Cutter Big Hit With Student Veterans Association

ATI Welding students of the evening shift designed, fabricated and welded donation boxes for the SVA. The SVA emblems were created using a computer numerical control plasma cutter (CNC) in conjunction with computer aided drafting and design/computer aided manufacturing (CADD/CAM) software. The software programs convert drawings and layouts into numerical code and send that data to the plasma cutting machine via a signal generator in the form of motor signals. These motor signals pinpoint and move the plasma torch to pre-determined (s,y) coordinates. As the motors move to coordinates a plasma arc is engaged which pieces and performs continuous cuts in metal. The plasma cutter can reach temperatures above 40,000 degrees F and is around 4x hotter than the surface of the sun which allows it to cut all known earthly metals. The pin point accuracy and high temperature of the plasma arc allows for extremely fast cutting speeds up to 500 ipm. Once the SVA emblems were laid out, designed, exported and converted to cut paths, the cutting operation took less than 5 minutes per emblem.

George Cramer, Welding Instructor

Mr. Miller explains the function of the OBD Trainer to visitors at ATI's Open House
EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Bay Diesel Corporation

Bay Diesel Corporation was established in 1982 to service diesel engines, especially Caterpillar, on tugs, dredges, fishing vessels, and similar applications. Today Bay Diesel and Generator is an authorized sales, service, and parts provider for almost all major brands of diesel engines and electrical generators. Their Worldwide Sea Services Division overhauls and repairs diesel main propulsion engines aboard ocean-going vessels all over the globe. Bay Diesel is the North American distributor and service agent for Cedervall Shaft Seals. They provide planned and corrective maintenance for the emergency power systems of some of the largest hospitals, data centers, and communications facilities in Virginia. They are the exclusive distributor for Generac Power Systems in Central and Southeastern Virginia and Southern West Virginia.

Bay Diesel's sales engineers are experienced graduate engineers who can respond to specifications and requirements with technically solid solutions, and then coordinate with the factory to ensure that the solution ordered is the solution delivered.

Bay Diesel offers competitive rates, quality service, and quality parts with skilled, factory-trained technicians and 24 hour service. They provide planned maintenance for standby and primary power generation equipment throughout the mid-Atlantic and beyond, and have the capability to design and build diesel or natural gas power plants.

Rob Robins, Senior Vice President of Sales has been with Bay for close to 11 years. Rob said, “We have been hiring ATI graduates for over 10 years and are very happy with the quality of job candidates that we are finding there. Right now, we have 4 employees that graduated from ATI, and we are looking forward to a growing relationship with the school.” Rob is also on the ATI Advisory Board.
EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Hampton Roads Transit

With its fleet of buses, light rail and ferry services, Hampton Roads Transit is an integral part of the long-term transportation solution in Hampton Roads.

HRT serves six cities providing about 60,000 trips daily to people going to work, school, doctor appointments and the many errands that make up daily life. This is why our relationship with ATI is so critical. It’s imperative that we have highly trained mechanics to ensure our vehicles are continuously operating and maintained. HRT has hired 15 to 20 ATI-trained mechanics since 2003.

“We are very satisfied with the quality of the mechanics we hire from ATI,” said Michael Smith, superintendent of fleet maintenance at HRT. “Having a skilled group of mechanics is vital to keep our vehicles on the roads. When we are providing a reliable service, we create an opportunity to grow our customer base.”

Transit ridership is growing in Hampton Roads. We expect the demand to continue. We have a vision for providing residents with frequent, reliable and clean transportation alternatives to driving and we consider ATI a partner in this goal.

Article by Delores Gee, Web and Social Media Coordinator for HRT
L3 Communications Visits ATI

Hans VanOekel, Project Manager for L3 was on campus recently speaking with welding students about opportunities in the marine welding industry. Hans was very honest with students explaining what it takes to be a welder with his company. Standards are high with rigorous testing to qualify. He encouraged students to practice their craft to the point of perfection. Hans relayed great opportunities for welders who took advantage of their time in school as well as taking care of their personal responsibilities. Hans expressed to students there is no bias when it comes to hiring welders.

Companies don’t care about race or physical size, tall or short, male or female, the only things they require are a good clean background and the ability to weld. As Hans explained, practice your craft and don’t do “dumb stuff.” “Dumb stuff” will have a huge negative impact when looking for employment.

Kirk Clayton, Director of Career Services

ATI’s New Video Studio

At the beginning of the year the HVAC department began filming video clips for the various pieces of equipment in the lab. The clips briefly describe the equipment and what a prospective student will learn about the equipment. QR codes located on various pieces of equipment will bring up the videos. The codes can be scanned with tablets and other mobile devices. This will be useful for tours as the clips will give the prospective students an idea of what their learning environment will be at ATI.

Our plan is to expand filming and include instructional videos for students. These videos will be available online for student reference, as well as being available in the lab workstations. All departments will be involved in the filming process. A production studio has been set up at 1429 Miller Store Road, and since the first of the year, ten clips have been produced.

Here are some of the videos we currently have posted. The first code is for the 80% gas furnace in the HVAC lab.

The second code is for the piping and brazing booth in the HVAC lab.

Article by: David Philpot
ATI HVAC Instructor
March 7th, 2014 was what seemed like a long time away. But it came a lot quicker than they could imagine. It was graduation day for 73 students of ATI. The excitement was high as they walked down the isle of a banquet room in the Va. Beach Convention Center. Proud family members and friends hastily snapped photos of their loved one.

Graduation keynote speaker was George Arrants, Automotive Education Consultant. George spoke to the graduates about an exciting future that awaits them in their chosen fields. George emphasized to the graduates that the biggest obstruction they are going to have in life is standing in their own shoes.

ATI staff and faculty wish you much success. You make us Proud!

“If a man empties his purse into his head, no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”

Benjamin Franklin