

The program received news coverage from WABC: <http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/video?id=9297154>



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**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENTS OF CITYWIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND
EDUCATION EXPAND PROGRAM TO TRAIN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THE
NEXT GENERATION OF ADVANCED MECHANICS AND TECHNICIANS**

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and the Department of Education (DOE) today announced the expansion of hands-on internships to 55 students at public high schools at the City's 34 municipal garages. Students participating in these internships as part of their work-based learning experiences receive hands-on training from the City's professional staff of technical supervisors and mechanics and exposure to some of the most advanced emergency and public works equipment in the country. Interns are serving at various agencies, including the New York City Police Department, Fire Department, New York Department of Sanitation, and Department of Parks and Recreation, and gain practical work experience to add to their resumes.

Over the course of their internships, students learn to diagnose equipment, perform basic maintenance, and understand shop equipment, organization and safety. Additionally, students receive hands-on experience maintaining a wide variety of vehicles, including hybrid units that are the latest in sustainable automotive technology. Internships are offered for qualified students both during the school year and over the summer.

In addition to providing internship opportunities, DCAS is supporting high schools with Career and Technical Education automotive programs through an agreement with DOE to donate City vehicles that are no longer in service. Students will have opportunities to work on these vehicles in their home schools.

"This internship program is an important part of NYC Fleet's history and future, and we are thrilled to be rolling out its expansion," said Edna Wells Handy, Commissioner of DCAS. "Through this critical partnership with DOE, we are training the students of today for the jobs of tomorrow, using cutting edge automotive hybrid and electric vehicle technology. Many of the seasoned staff currently working on the City's fleet are products of the City's automotive high schools, and benefited from these specialized internships."

"New York City's mechanics and fleet professionals are the skilled and dedicated experts who keep our City fleet on the road, serving New Yorkers every day," said Keith Kerman, the City's Chief Fleet Officer. "We are incredibly excited about the partnership between DCAS and the Department of Education and the chance to help train, educate, and motivate a new generation of technicians, and we thank DOE and especially the NYPD for their leadership in this initiative."

About NYC Fleet and DOE

NYC Fleet manages the nation's largest municipal fleet with more than 25,000 vehicles, 34 main garages, and 1,600 employees. The majority of the fleet resides at seven agencies: NYPD, DSNY, Fire, Parks, Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Correction. DCAS manages the rest of the City's fleet on behalf of 53 other agencies. Among many achievements, NYC operates one of the largest alternative fuel fleets in the nation.

The Department of Education (DOE) offers automotive training at seven high schools citywide, including Automotive High School in Brooklyn. Automotive repair programs are also available at Thomas Edison Career and Technical Education High School, William E. Grady Career and Technical High School, Tottenville High School, Alfred E. Smith Career and Technical Education High School, Ralph R. McKee Career and Technical High School and the School of Cooperative Technical Education.

“To prepare for both college and career, our public high school students need opportunities to apply what they’ve learned in their classes and labs,” said Vanda Belusic-Vollor, Executive Director of the Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Readiness. “Through this partnership, DCAS welcomes students into their shops, gives them access to new technologies and techniques, and make available committed and knowledgeable professionals to serve as role models and mentors to our students. This kind of partnership is at the heart of Career and Technical Education, and a model practice toward extending opportunity for all New Yorkers.”

The City is also providing additional training opportunities for the students. In May 2013, twenty-two students and faculty members joined City staff to receive Biodiesel Technician training from the National Biodiesel Board and earn Automotive Service Excellence certifications.

In May 2013, Automotive High Schools participated in the City’s annual Fleet and Equipment Show at Flushing Corona Meadows Park for the first time. Students interacted with industry leaders at all fleet levels, especially in alternative fuel technologies. In August 2013, fleet sustainability was also a focus when the Department of Sanitation hosted the interns at the Sanitation Alternative Fuels Lab in Queens where they reviewed a wide variety of clean and green technologies.

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