



NEWS

El Camino College Compton Center
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El Camino College Compton Center Prepares Women For Careers in Automotive Technology and Repairs

Have you ever had engine problems with your car or needed auto body repair or refinishing? The next time you need a skilled mechanic, the expert service you seek may be provided by a woman who received her training at El Camino College Compton Center.

Degrees or certificate requirements for Compton Center students in the automotive technology program include gaining proficiency in safety practices, automotive service, troubleshooting, brakes and steering, suspension, wheel alignment, engine tune-up, engine repair and rebuilding; transmissions, emission control and computer systems. Fred Lamm, who believes he is the most senior employee at Compton, has been an instructor in auto technology for 39 years. He says: "The curriculum is in line with national Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification."

Judith Chaney, mother of three, is in her second semester in the auto technology program. She credits her sons' love of cars as the inspiration to become knowledgeable about automobiles and how to service them. Her goal is to start her own business and build a reputation for excellent customer service. Ms. Chaney is passionate about learning in her chosen field and says: "I couldn't see myself without it." She enjoys her experience in the program and thinks of herself as a "mechanical doctor that brings life to cars."

Tom Rydalch, an instructor at Compton for 28 years, built up the program in auto repair and designed the layout of the shop to simulate an automotive business. Students learn about auto collision repair and refinishing by working with a state of the art spray booth and frame rack for straightening cars. Rydalch has developed relationships with many business owners over the years. He indicates that after students receive their certification, 100% of them have placements in entry level positions in the field.

Lillie Miles, a student in the program worked in the aircraft industry for 16 years. She says "...you can't learn auto body repair overnight." She has been in the program for four years and works on her own vehicle—a 1965 Chevrolet panel truck that she thinks might have been a Helms Bakery truck. She is working toward earning a certificate.

For information about Compton Center's *Women in Industry and Technology Program*, contact Alicia Zambrano at 310-900-1600, ext. 2779 or go to www.compton.edu/academics/wit or www.compton.edu/academics/cte.

El Camino College Compton Center is accredited and serving the educational needs of our community. Students can earn an associate degree, transfer to a four-year university or receive career training. Fees are only \$20 per unit. The catalog, class schedule, and evening and weekend offerings are available in-person or online at www.compton.edu. Compton Center is located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA; 310-900-1600.

