New Community Corporation Automotive Technician Employment and Training Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

New Community Corporation’s Automotive Technician Training was first offered to residents of Greater Newark, New Jersey, in 1996, though the program has undergone a good deal of change since it was first offered. With support from CareerWorks, the Greater Newark Workforce Funders Collaborative, the automotive program, which in 2013 had been dormant for two years, was revitalized. The partnership currently has 33 employer partners, including Ford Motor Company, Sansone Auto Mall, major brand area dealerships, and local automotive repair centers. Other partners include the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Newark and Essex County Workforce Investment Boards, the Urban League of Essex County, and TD Bank.

The 1200-hour course provides participants with industry-recognized credentials and the skills to acquire an entry-level position and quickly advance in their careers. Annual earnings can range anywhere from $25,000 up to $125,000 and employment projections suggest growth of roughly 20 percent for jobs in the automotive industry in the Greater Newark region between 2010 and 2020.

NEW COMMUNITY CORPORATION

One of the largest and most comprehensive community development organizations in the country, New Community Corporation (NCC) in Newark, New Jersey, was founded in 1968 to help inner-city residents improve the quality of their lives through a variety of services and supports.

In addition to the automotive training program, they also offer job training programs in culinary and health care as well as GED prep, English as a Second Language, and Adult Basic Education. Services at NCC also include intensive case management, a family resource center that provides everything from emergency food assistance to help paying utility bills, an early learning center for working parents, transitional housing for the homeless, mental and behavioral health services, a shopping center, and credit union.
At 22, Reginald Norris wasn’t on any career path, having bounced around from job to job. He made the decision to enroll in New Community Corporation’s Automotive Training program in spite of his own skepticism of the possibility of landing a job at the completion of the program.

“I didn’t think I’d get a job to be honest, but when I got a job it was a big deal,” said Reggie. “It’s probably one of the best things that has happened to me in a long time. At a job like this, you never get bored.”

Reggie now works full time in the service department at Clifton, NJ, dealership Gensinger Volkswagen. New Community and Gensinger have a longstanding partnership and the dealership has been very willing to hire new graduates of the program, as participants consistently exit the program ready to work.