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Performance Columbus Automotive Group Launches Program in Fairfield County to Introduce Individuals to Careers in Auto

Performance Columbus Automotive Group, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio with its newest location in Carroll, Ohio, have partnered with Eastland Fairfield Career and Technical Schools (EFCTS) and Fairfield County to offer a Tech Advancement Program (TAP). This program is designed to introduce individuals to careers in automotive.

The program, which is free to attend and open to those 18 and over, starts on April 7 and meets twice per week through the beginning of June. The program is modeled after the TAP program in Union County, Ohio. The first Fairfield County class has seven individuals. The goal is to provide the programming on an ongoing basis to grow automotive maintenance technicians with basic skills to enter the industry. IMPACT60, a non-profit charitable organization founded by Performance Columbus' dealer principal, Bruce Daniels, is providing instructional and student support and funding.

While Performance Columbus hopes to have many of the TAP participants join its 703 employees throughout Central Ohio, it hopes that the program will grow large enough to allow individuals to continue training for employment anywhere in the region.

"We know there are hard-working, talented individuals in Central Ohio who are seeking training and career opportunities to better their lives. The TAP program was developed to help them learn a skill with immediate earning potential," states Lavona See from IMPACT60 and Performance Columbus.

EFCTS is offering the program at its Fairfield Career Center campus at 3985 Coonpath Rd. NW., Carroll, Ohio 43112.

"We are excited to partner with Performance Columbus Automotive Group on the TAP program," said Christine Boucher, Business Partner Coordinator at EFCTS... "They truly value training and want to help develop pathways for their employees to succeed. We're hopeful this is a start of a great partnership for years to come."

The auto industry continues to grow. There are 32,437 jobs in the automotive repair industry in Ohio with an average annual wage of \$42,120. The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance believes this program, coupled with others in the area, will be the key to filling these positions over the long term. The Alliance's Career Readiness Program, which works with graduating seniors that aren't leaving for college or entering the military, introduced TAP as an option for them, so they have skills and a job when they graduate from high school. Fairfield County's OhioMeansJobs Center also promoted this with its clients that are interested in starting new careers.

"Our auto dealers and repair shops in Fairfield County have always been forward thinking when it comes to workforce development," said Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director. "Performance Columbus has fit right into that group and they're helping to train our workforce. It's great when industry drives training programs and we can be there to support them."

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