



# ICAIA NEWS



**ILLINOIS COLLEGE AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION**

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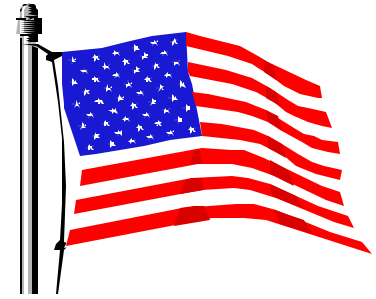
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## *From the Driver's Seat*

As I look ahead to the upcoming year, I see all the wonderful opportunities that await our students and us. Last year about this time, someone "in the driver's seat" wrote about getting our students more involved outside the classroom. I have taken that advice. Many of us know recruiting students has always been a difficult task. It has been equally challenging to retain these students. And I would assume most of you also try to help your students find their careers. I have recently realized that all of these things work together efficiently.



One of the initiatives that a few members have participated in is Skills USA/VICA. I urge everyone to look into Skills USA/VICA. There are many misconceptions about Skills USA/VICA. I have heard many of these. One I'd like to address is that Skills USA/VICA is *only* a contest. The majority of what people see is the State and National contests, but Skills USA/VICA is also dedicated to teaching leadership skills. I want to share the rewards I see from having a chapter at our school. The technology students have been recognized for their efforts by the college administration. They have met students from throughout Illinois and the United States and have met leaders in their respective industries. They have also had the opportunity to show their abilities to these industry leaders. As for the other instructors, and myself there is the opportunity to view how well our students are prepared for life after the classroom. This is not just how well prepared their skills are, but how well they handle pressure and interact with the people from their industry. I have seen several employment opportunities stem as a result of a student making the right contact at a Skills USA/VICA conference. My greatest reward so far was when one of the State winners thanked me for the opportunity to compete. He said, "I have never been the student that was asked to do anything like this. It has been an honor." The experience has made this student move from an average student to one that is at the top of his class. I am that sure if you talk to the members of ICAIA that participate they will agree it is well worth some of your time.

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***From the Driver's Seat***

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The other activity that I found myself involved in this past year was the CHI TOWN TEAR DOWN. I literally found this activity through an ICAIA member that was concerned about getting enough participation. Mechanics Local 701 sponsors this contest. The opportunity to go to the track for two days of drag racing excitement was enough to get me involved. All the high schools competed on Saturday. While Sunday's competition was for community colleges and technical schools. I think it is a testament to the quality of education from our community colleges that ICAIA member schools placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. The students received some very nice prizes and had a great day at the track in spite of the weather. When we returned to the school there were the usual "good job" and pats on the back. Then things seemed to calm down. I looked at our success at the contest as a great recruitment opportunity. Then out of the blue I received a call from a gentleman wanting to intern some of our students on an NHRA top fuel dragster. This was far beyond what I had ever imagined. This is a tremendous opportunity for these young people, and hopefully many more will follow. The time it took to organize our team and practice was very minimal. The rewards, however, have been outstanding for the students, the college and our department.

What I am trying to say is, for those of you participating in these activities, keep up the good work! And to those of you who haven't yet tried it get involved. I have a motto, which is the same for many people, "Work Smarter Not Harder". In closing I will borrow a line from the show Cheers, "find a place to go where everybody knows your name". If you are involved and get your institution's name out there it makes recruiting, retaining and placing students easier.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Joliet.

*Todd Fortier  
ICAIA President*

**Database Report**

The database has been updated from last spring's conference. Currently there are 324 members in the ICAIA database. Of those, 220 members currently have their dues paid up to date. That is an increase of 24 new members since last fall. There are 70 vendors in the ICAIA database. That is an increase of 12 vendors since fall.

Art Koudelka and I really need people to pre-register for the Fall ICAIA Conference at Joliet Junior College. This really helps us eliminate extra work the day of the conference. If you have any questions on pre-registering, please contact one of us.

A new copy of the updated database is passed out at the fall conference only. If you need one, let me know and I will get you one. If you have any questions, comments, or corrections, please contact me.

*Dan O'Connor, Database Manager  
Illinois Valley Community College*

## Mission and Purposes of the Illinois College Automotive Instructors Association

The Illinois College Automotive Instructors Association (identified as ICAIA) is dedicated to providing comprehensive automotive technology education and training for its membership on a semi-annual basis

Its members shall consist of both secondary and post-secondary automotive technology instructors, individuals whose livelihood is directly related to the automotive industry, and students who are pursuing a career in automotive service and repair. (Even though the association has Illinois in its name, individuals residing in surrounding states are encouraged to become members).

ICAIA will support state and national organizations that can aid in the betterment of Vocational and Technical Education, especially those that support programs that prepare individuals for careers in the automotive service industry.

The following purposes are of equal importance in realizing the mission of the ICAIA:

- To provide automotive instructors with current technical information semi-annually
- To utilize technical seminars, equipment displays, and training aids to further upgrade automotive technology instructors.
- To allow networking and interactions between professional colleagues and individuals from industry during ICAIA conferences.
- To provide up-to-date technical automotive career education that meets the needs of students, business, and industry.
- To award scholarships to automotive technology students as directed by the ICAIA Board of Directors

## ICAIA Fall 2002 Conference October 10 & 11, 2002

Hosted by:

**Joliet Junior College**  
1215 Houbolt Road  
Joliet, IL 60436



**Be sure to pre-register.**

Registration forms are available by contacting Art Koudelka, ICAIA Executive Secretary at (815) 224-2720, or by visiting ICAIA on the internet at: **www.icaia.org**

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact **Tim Airney, Lynn Graff, or Jon Rau** at:

Joliet Junior College, (815) 729-9020  
Fax # (815) 725-2758



## Treasurer's Report

The ICAIA treasury currently has a balance of \$13,881.60. If you are not already registered, please make it a point to do so as soon as possible.

*Art Koudelka, Executive Secretary  
Illinois Valley Community College*

## Magic Numbers

Numbers, numbers, numbers, is the battle cry of colleges and university the beginning of every semester. What is the magic number has always been my question. How many students does it take to have a class? The administration has a financial responsibility to make it cost effective to run a class. The instructor has to make the magic number effective for learning. Then we have to achieve the magic number. If we don't, then we have to cancel the course. If you are looking for me to give you the solutions, stop looking. I am just offering perspective or opinion (which may quiet possible not be incorrect).

I am going to address these concerns one at a time. The "Magic Number" has always been an illusive subject for me. Does this number have any basis in fact? Again I am showing my ignorance. It seems to me when I have asked what the number is I get, "it depends on the course". Now by reasonable estimation there has to be a formula. I understand that opening the doors and turning on the lights in a classroom does cost money. That would be a fixed operation cost. Based on tuition I figure it takes a few students to cover that cost. The next cost would be support materials. I know many of us develop our own using whatever means necessary, but even copies cost money. I would imagine the tuition of a few more students would cover this. Then lastly there is the luxurious salary of the instructor for the course. I think most people would agree one student could handle this. Not to over state the financials I think we have handled all the cost very few students. Since we are non-profit organizations. Another great quote I have heard, "We lose money on every student that takes a technical course." Shouldn't that make the magic number go down?

Now that the major concern is out of the way let us look at the learning aspect. I am a firm believer that smaller class sizes work a lot better then larger class sizes. What class size would be preferred? I have taught from forty-one all the way down to five. I understand that some people don't see anything unusual about forty-one. I know that there are other instructors out there that couldn't fathom a class as small as five. That was the most exceptional experience I have had teaching. Never have I had an environment so conducive to learning. It was only possible thanks to an administration that truly put the students ahead of anything else. Have you ever tried to explain to a few students that there are not enough people to offer the class they need for a degree? How do you answer students when they ask why there are twenty-one people to work on three alignment machines? I just smile and say stay in school you are my magic number.

*Todd Fortier  
Illinois Central College*

## Thank You Rock Valley College!!

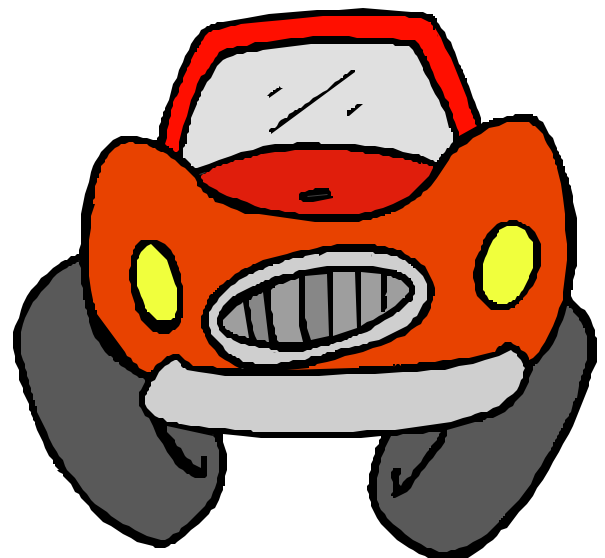
The 53<sup>rd</sup> ICAIA Conference held at Rock Valley College on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> was a great success. **Dennis Palmer, Russ Knodle and their staff** put together an excellent conference.

The town of Rockford welcomed 112 ICAIA members. Of the 112, 101 of the members pre-registered. WOW! Great work ICAIA members. The vendor show was also well represented allowing ICAIA members to view some of the latest in tools, equipment, and training aids.

At Thursday evening's banquet, a total of 98 members and guests were in attendance for great food and conversation.

Great work and thank you Rock Valley College!

See you at the ICAIA Conference at Joliet Junior College and don't forget the tours at Chicagoland Speedway and Route 66 on Friday!!!



## CATA's AYES efforts gain momentum with new area manager

Jim Butcher has embarked as the Automotive Youth Educational Systems Manager for the Chicago area. The position is funded in part by the Chicago Automobile Trade Association, where Butcher can be reached at 630-424-6020.

The AYES program builds partnerships between dealerships and high schools with automotive service technology curricula. The mission is to create a pipeline of future technicians.

Butcher's initial directive is to enlist more area dealerships in the program. Just half of the 60 AYES students at four local high schools were placed for year-long student technician internships that began last month. The 25 area new-car dealerships that take part in AYES rate the program highly, said Butcher. His challenge is to educate more dealers about the program's benefits.



*Jim Butcher*  
*AYES Manager for CATA*

Butcher spent the last 11 years as an instructor at the Technology Center of DuPage, a technician magnet school in Addison and one of the five AYES high schools in the area the CATA serves. He previously worked five years as an automotive technician.

"I think Jim's a perfect fit for the connections we need this role to make," said Terry D'Arcy, a CATA director who interviewed candidates for the position. "He has a thorough understanding, having worked in every area—at a technical school and as a technician at a dealership."

D'Arcy said: "Many dealers have no idea how to cultivate new technicians. With AYES, it's just a matter of educating dealers. And with the average age of the area's technicians, hundreds will be retiring in the next five to eight years."

Since AYES debuted locally in 1999, Butcher said the program "is moving forward, but it's been at the expense of the (high school) instructors. They've had to make the dealership visits, which takes them out of class, and the visits really are for an AYES manager."

AYES representatives match schools and dealerships to develop on-the-job experiences and mentor relationships with journeymen technicians. The AYES program is important because 25 percent of 18-year-olds say they already have selected a career path. Exposing the interns to dealership work could sway them to a career there.

That exposure, D'Arcy added, can keep the interns from being lured to quick-service lube shops and other competitors.

The other AYES high schools participating locally are Lake County High School in Grayslake; Curie Metropolitan High School and Farragut Career Academy, both in Chicago; and Hammond (Ind.) Career Center.

The National Automobile Dealers Association provided a start-up grant to help defray Butcher's salary, and the CATA is seeking future funding from the Illinois Board of Education.



# Why Bother Including Environmental, Health And Safety In Automotive, Body and Truck Programs

By Jessica Levy

I have spent the past 32 years in the automotive industry and education. For 19 of those years, I was responsible for the start up and growth of an automotive training center at a community college. We offered several AAS degrees and numerous in-service courses for technicians, owners and managers. Our building was 5 miles from the main campus. This meant I didn't have much support from the main campus personnel. I have an AAS in Automotive Technology, a BS in Vocational Education and a MS in Occupational Education. These programs did not cover environmental, health and safety in an appropriate depth. In my position as Director of the Training Center, I would attend OSHA and EPA seminars and immediately feel overwhelmed and frustrated. I didn't know what was truth and I didn't like to be threatened. My reaction to all of this was to ignore the situation. This meant the shop did not receive the safety and environmental attention it should have. This also meant our courses did not include the environmental, health and safety information they should have. By the way, the college's safety officer did not follow many of the OSHA and EPA required regulations either.

Having spent the past 7 years working and learning about EPA and OSHA issues I have discovered two things:

- There is a language barrier to understanding environmental, health and safety issues. Just as automotive has a technical language, OSHA and EPA have their own language. A basic understanding of their terms makes it easy to understand the standards and regulations.
- There are some regulations that are important for the industry and schools. However, most automotive schools do not teach them.

If automotive, body and truck programs do not teach this information, who will? Students need this information for their apprenticeships, internships and full time jobs. They need it as technicians, managers and owners.

Whenever I talk to instructors, the most common responses are " OSHA hasn't been here yet". " I do not have the time to teach this". My response to these statements is this:

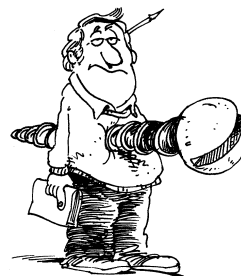
Some of the material that hasn't been covered really worries me as it involves training and information that is required by regulation and government standards. The lack of this information has caused people in the industry and schools to harm the environment, be fined and injured. It is relatively easy to add the required activities and information.

Some people in automotive education and the industry aren't too happy about having to learn about environmental, health and safety issues. They would rather be repairing vehicles and learning the newest technical information. But... the reality is, there are environmental and safety regulations, which affect this industry, schools and YOU! People are getting hurt, being exposed to major risks, and yes, even dying on the job.

Here are some true stories that help illustrate why workplace environmental, health and safety should concern YOU!

## Environmental

- Preparing to sell a dealership, it was discovered during the required environmental land audit, that hazardous wastes had been dumped down the shop drain. The drain emptied into a septic tank. The whole community now has to use special water treatment as the hazardous wastes contaminated their drinking water. It will take approximately \$300,000 to clean up the land before the property could be sold.
- A shop was charged \$400,000 in EPA fines and clean-up fees due to a leaking wastewater tank. The service director indicated that he should have known more about secondary containment and that his lack of understanding helped cause this situation.
- Many banks and insurance companies require that businesses pass an environmental audit before they are given loans, transfer titles or environmental insurance.
- If technicians and managers know how to clean up spills properly, they can save their employer money and handle the material safely.
- If technicians know how to properly dispose of used oil, solvents, paints, batteries, antifreeze and tires, they can save their employer money.
- For using the wrong EPA identification number, an automotive small Business was fined \$10,000.
- For keeping drums past the allowed storage time an automotive business was fined \$8,000.



*Why Bother - Continued on page 7*

## *Why Bother - Continued from page 6*

### Safety and Health

- Employers are required to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and certain training. Owners, managers and technicians tend to ignore personal protective equipment and injuries and fines are occurring. Schools have told me they do not have to follow this rule because they are not a business. The reality is that OSHA may not fine a school for a student injury caused by the lack of PPE, but the student can sue through a civil suit. Schools are liable in this situation!
- Considering the problems with HIV and hepatitis, technicians and students need to be aware of how to work around blood from cuts, injuries and customers' cars that have been in an accident.
- Many technicians and students develop chemical sensitivities from improper handling of shop chemicals. Once developed, these sensitivities will stay the same or get worse. They will never go away.
- Too many shops do not have an appropriate Right to Know program. This is the most fined area in the automotive industry. Students need to know this information for their school and work experience!
- OSHA looks very favorably at businesses with safety programs. When a business has a safety program, OSHA tends to reduce any fines and limits the type of inspection.
- Lack of shop safety meetings and procedures have helped cause the following types of injuries: dermatitis, bad backs, hernias, carpal tunnel, eye injuries, foot injuries, crushings, chemical poisonings, respiratory disorders, fractures, vision loss and more.
- Technicians should know that used oil is a carcinogen and how to handle it safely.

- Because of the lack of training on the use of a shop jamboni, part of the shop and a brand new car burned up.
- The improper use of a blowgun, and improper air pressure, caused a technician's hand to blow up like a balloon. In a similar incident, a technician had his stomach become detached from the intestines.

These are only some of the stories I have discovered. The bottom line is this:

- Safety programs and meetings in schools and industry help limit injuries, accidents and fines.
- Schools are being cited. If a school is cited, there is a time consuming process that has to be followed including fixing the problems. The failure to fix problems can cost thousands of dollars per day.
- Environmental awareness and compliance with regulations limits fines and costly clean-ups.
- Automotive, body and truck students need to learn about environmental, health and safety to be prepared for the reality of the work environment.

Fun and Easy Learning, LLC can provide your school with training materials and a train the trainer so you can teach safety and environmental as part of your existing program. A Teacher's Guide is available that details the topics that need to be covered and easy ways to insert the material into existing lectures and labs. Visit our web site at [FunandEasyLearning.com](http://FunandEasyLearning.com) or e-mail us at [FunandEasyLearn@aol.com](mailto:FunandEasyLearn@aol.com) or call at 505 899-5380.

Author: Jessica Levy, co-owner of Fun and Easy Learning, LLC



## **Opportunities to further education**

Instructors with an Associate Degree can now obtain a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree “within an accelerated time frame” through Northwood University’s Illinois Outreach/Lisle Program Center. Northwood’s Lisle Program Center provides an opportunity to have work/life experience evaluated for possible credit towards the degree.

To apply, call the Illinois Outreach/Lisle Program Center (630) 955-9519 to make an appointment with an Admissions Representative. A Northwood University application must be completed along with a \$15 application fee.

More information on this program can be found on the internet [www.northwood.edu/](http://www.northwood.edu/) or **contact Cathy Taylor, Illinois Outreach Director at 630 955-9519**

# HOW YOU CAN JOIN ICAIA

Fill in the spaces below and mail this application form with a check or money order to:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send mail to:  Home  Workplace

Please check all areas that you teach:  Automotive  Collision  Diesel

Membership dues are five dollars a year, with a one, three, or five-year option. Please check one of the options below and enclose your payment.

\$5.00 – 1 year ICAIA Dues     \$15.00 – 3 year ICAIA Dues     \$25.00 – 5 year ICAIA Dues

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