

Ladies/Gents:

Back in February of 2005 a simple idea arose during the Oregon CARSTAR business group meeting. A key discussion point was the shrinking base of auto body techs to hire.

During that meeting it was identified that both the insurance and collision industries share a joint interest in the safe repair of today's more complex vehicles. Clearly the need to support the future's technicians is prevalent. Portland Community college was identified as one of the leading sources in the Northwest to offer such a program to meet these needs.



Many times a community school's finances are too limited to purchase newer vehicles needing structural repairs and as result many students are not exposed to extensive repairs until they are hired by a collision facility. Coming from auto body and paint background it was easy to identify that the Hartford could assist these students with heavily damaged vehicles to learn this trade.

PCC has a unique program that not only teaches the repairs of such vehicles to pre-accident condition, but auctioning them off and investing the proceeds back into its students with tools and scholarships.

As this journey grew, the request for one vehicle grew as I envisioned a means not only to help these students, but to give back to the elderly who have done so much for so many during their lives. As a result, two vehicles were give to the college and a plan went in motion to identify who would best benefit from the second vehicle donation. The research unveiled that Portland IMPACT is an important provider to the free transportation of the elderly.



Over the past two years a lot of effort from a lot of students and local eCRSP partners had transpired to make the donation to Portland IMPACT a reality.



I want to take this moment to thank each and everyone of you who had a part in making this meaningful event happen. From our Auto Physical Damage management team whom authorized the salvage donation, to Carstar for the parts donation, my eCRSP coordinator Wally Franz for seeing this through, and most of all the students whom performed these repairs.

The unity of an insurance carrier, a national eCRSP partner and those educators willing to work as one seamlessly says a lot for where our industry is headed.

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