



March  
2021

# Industry Update

*News and Information for  
Northwest Automotive Trade Association  
Members*

[View Online Classes](#)

## Connect with schools using WrenchWay

If you missed NATA's Zoom meeting last month, please spend a few minutes to learn about **WrenchWay School Connect, which is** now in Oregon.

WrenchWay offers a great way for the industry to connect with the automotive programs in schools in your community and around the state.

If those programs have a need the industry can help meet, they can let you know about it through WrenchWay. If you have something to offer the schools, you can reach them through WrenchWay.

Our schools need our help, and we all need to get involved. Helping the schools helps our industry!

[Click here](#) for a 1-page flyer about WrenchWay.

Then [click here](#) for an easy how-to guide for getting started on WrenchWay today.

**WrenchWay School Connect**  
Local Solutions to a National Problem

WrenchWay School Connect is a free tool that makes it easier for schools to connect with local shops and dealerships, and get the resources they need to attract students to technician programs and educate them about the industry.

**How It Works**

**Post a New Topic**  
Schools post requests for anything they could use to help improve their programs. Some examples include:

- Questions
- Shop hours
- Tool donations
- Apprenticeships/Agreementships/Job shadowing

**Scan Open Projects**  
Shops and schools scroll through all of the open projects to see if there is a match. Shops may see an open project from a school in their area and choose to help out. Or a school could see a local shop willing to donate something that they could use.

**Complete the Project**  
Shops and schools can message back and forth directly on the site to ask questions, coordinate logistics, etc. It's really that simple.

Interested in learning more? Contact us today! Kristen Buttaglia, Director of Strategic Partnerships  
kbuttag@wrenchway.com | 303.277.5202

## NATA conducting mechanical rate survey

NATA is asking mechanical shops throughout the state to take just a few minutes to complete a labor rate survey. The more shops that participate in this confidential survey, the better the cumulative data we can report back to you.



[Click here](#) to take the survey – and please ask a colleague at one or two other shops to participate as well.

## School seeks help with mock interviews

The Auto Body Paint and Repair program at Career Technical Education Center

(CTEC) in Salem is seeking industry partners to participate in its first-ever "Mock Interview Event," taking place online over four days in April. You can participate in just a single session on one day...or multiple sessions on one or more days.



It's a great way to invest in our future workforce. You definitely don't need to have a current job opening to participate; this is designed to help students prepare for real job interviews. But if you are looking to hire, this also could be a good opportunity to find a good candidate.

[Check here](#) for more details, or [click here](#) to indicate which day(s) and time(s) you can participate.

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## Job openings at two Oregon schools

Two Oregon schools have posted industry related job openings.

Central Oregon Community College is hiring for a full-time (9-month academic year) assistant professor of automotive. The job posting closes March 16. [Click here](#) for more details.



Portland Community College has an opening for a full-time Caterpillar Electric Power Generation instructor in its ThinkBIG / Dealer Service Program. Five years of recent experience working or teaching in diesel service is required. [Click here](#) for details.

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## Free webinar on finding technicians

Seven tips for recruiting qualified technicians will be offered during a free webinar featuring Kate Beirowski, director of sales for Find A Wrench, on March 16. [Click here](#) for details and to register. If you can't attend the live session, register and you can receive a recording.



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## Body shops 'grade' the insurance companies

Collision repairers continue to see smaller auto insurers outpacing the 10 largest insurers in terms of working to ensure quality repairs and customer service, according to the findings of the 2021 *CRASH Network* "Insurer Report Card."

Chubb, Erie Insurance, Michigan Farm Bureau and North Carolina Farm Bureau each earned an overall grade of A- or higher from shops evaluating the insurers in terms of how well each company's "policies, attitude and payment practices ensure quality repairs and customer service for motorists." Washington-based Mutual of Enumclaw ranked 12th among the 75 insurers graded, with an overall grade of B+.



More than 1,100 individual shops around the country each graded as many as 30 different insurance companies in their state. None of the 10 largest auto insurers – the companies most familiar to consumers thanks to the billions of dollars those insurers spend on marketing – received an overall grade higher than a C+ from shops.

Shops participating in the "Insurer Report Card" said the highest-graded insurers place an emphasis on 'repairing vehicles properly,' 'following the auto manufacturers' guidelines,' and 'keeping their customers' best interests paramount.'

They criticized the insurers to which they gave lower grades using such phrases such as, 'cares more about cost than quality of the repair,' 'pressures us to use cheap, low-quality parts,' 'slow claims process,' and 'inexperienced adjusters.'

[Click here](#) to download a free report with the 2021 "Insurer Report Card" findings.

*CRASH Network* is an independent weekly subscription source of collision repair industry news, research and information.

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## Training on hazardous waste management

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a class covering basic management of hazardous waste. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, DEQ is not currently able to host in-person trainings. DEQ is hosting three virtual hazardous waste basics trainings between March and May 2021. These trainings are first-come, first-serve and there are 60 total spaces available for all three trainings. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is free of charge.



Hazardous waste technical experts from DEQ will lead each class. [Click here](#) to view the complete course outline/schedule and registration instructions and register for one of the three trainings. If you are unable to access this link, please email [miller.denise@deq.state.or.us](mailto:miller.denise@deq.state.or.us) for assistance.

DEQ will determine the need and feasibility of additional trainings. We understand this is not an ideal format for some, and we ask that you contact the DEQ hazardous waste technical assistance specialist for your area to determine training options available for your company.

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## Welcome to new NATA members

NATA is pleased to welcome a couple of new members this month.

BMW of Eugene is a part of the Swickard Auto Group, which has 17 locations nationwide providing sales and service of new and used vehicles.



Junk Car Medics is the newest associate member of NATA. [JunkCarMedics.com](http://JunkCarMedics.com) buys used cars, junk cars and "everything in between" through a large network of auto salvage yards and car auctions.

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## Portland business for sale

Brady Joy of Import Repair Center in Portland is seeking to sell his auto repair business. Established in 1984, the business operates in a 3,000-square-foot shop on a 10,000-square foot lot on North Lombard Street. Both the business and lot are for sale. For more information, call (503) 235-7899.



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## College's automotive program highlighted

If you missed it, [click here](#) to check out an awesome local TV news story on the automotive program at Clackamas Community College and long-time instructor Jay Leuck.



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## Collision Industry Foundation seeks donors

The non-profit Collision Industry Foundation, which assists members of the collision repair industry impacted by natural disasters or other catastrophic events around the country, has created a [program](#) offering [benefits](#) to donors based on their annual contribution amount.

Though the Foundation usually steps in after earthquakes, hurricanes or wildfires impact shops and their employees, the Foundation last spring helped hundreds of shop employees laid off in the early weeks of the pandemic by providing cash grants.



To learn more about the Foundation, [click here](#) for a Powerpoint presentation, or visit the Foundation's [website](#).

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## Recent quote from NATA board member

**“We are no longer a trade...We are a skilled profession.”**

Ron Reichen  
Precision Body & Paint, Inc.



## Oregon agencies offer business training

Three Oregon agencies offer regular training for companies within the state.

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry (BOLI) offers training seminars on such topics as wage and hour laws, discipline and discharge, and the latest developments in employment law. Details are available by [clicking here](#).

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites businesses that handle hazardous waste to sign up for a class covering basic management of such waste. Registration is free but on a first-come, first-served basis. [Click here](#) for more details.

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) offers classroom workshops and online training on such topics as hazard communications, safety meetings, lockout/tagout, personal protective equipment, etc. [Click here](#) for current class description and schedule, call (888) 292-5247 (option 2) or send an email to [ed.web@oregon.gov](mailto:ed.web@oregon.gov).



EDUCATION

BENEFITS

CONSUMER INFO

SHOP HELP

INSURANCE

Northwest Automotive Trades Association

7931 NE Halsey St., Ste. 212  
Portland, OR 97213

Phone: (503) 253-9898

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