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NEWS RELEASE

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Northwest Iowa Community College Automotive Faculty Present at the Automotive Service Association - Midwest, VISION Hi-Tech Training & Expo in Kansas City, MO

Rick Cannoy, Mark Steinle and Chuck Ball, Northwest Iowa Community College Automotive Instructors, presented "Laptops in the Classroom" at the Automotive Service Association (ASA) -Midwest, VISION Hi-Tech Training & Expo held at the Overland Park Convention Center, Kansas City, MO March 7-10.

Their presentation was for other automotive instructors that were considering, or already have, laptops for every student in their class. They discussed the pros and cons they have experienced over the last four years as they have implemented laptops into their classrooms as well as the growing pains from books only, to laptops with hardcopy books, and now ebooks. Online grading programs and other web-based programs that have proven valuable to them were also discussed. Participants in the seminar were also encouraged to use their laptops to get a hands-on experience in teaching the millennial generation on their terms.

"So many schools have just two or three computers for their entire class to use. We made the move to have all of our students have their own computers, just like in industry, four years ago. The students can take their computers in the cars they are repairing and run a diagnostics test, get the needed part number, click on a picture of the part and order the needed part all in a matter of seconds while working on the car. There is no need to run back and forth from a shared computer at the front of the lab. It saves a lot of time and this is how industry works. This is more of a real life situation that a lot of employers and employees alike in industry have moved to." Steinle continued, "If you are an employer who pays your employees by the hour or employee who works on commission you don't want to waste time walking back and forth to a shared computer or parts counter. Having your own computer with all the information loaded onto it saves time and ultimately makes the employee more efficient and they make more money while saving the customer labor costs."

This was the first year “Educator Think Tank” sessions were added to the VISION Hi-Tech Training & Expo conference. The purpose was to build links between industry and high school and college automotive repair instructors. The sessions focused on providing today’s high school, vo-tech and college instructors with 21st century skills, resources and teaching methods to train the service industry workforce of tomorrow.

“Launching the *Educator Think Tank* was a critical component to VISION’s continued success,” says Sheri Hamilton, ASA-Midwest executive director and VISION show manager. “In order for the automotive repair industry to remain vibrant, we must ensure educators have the tools, resources and skills needed to teach in the 21st century classroom. We’re excited about the expanding partnership VISION will have with industry educators and trainers.”

Cannoy commented, “It was a great honor to be asked to present at this conference. It was nice to share what we have learned over the past four years as we implemented our 1:1 computer strategy. This was a great group of automotive educators and we can all learn from each other.”

VISION Hi-Tech Training & Expo offered 60,000 square feet of exhibits, featured the latest in automotive service tools, equipment and services for the automotive industry, as well as management and technical training to automotive service professionals. More than 3,500 automotive service professionals from 37 states, Australia and Canada received training during the 2013 event.

Steinle and Ball will present this class again at the North American Council of Automotive Instructors (NACAT) conference in Quebec City, Quebec in July.

Photo (L-R): NCC Automotive Instructors: Chuck Ball, Rick Cannoy, Mark Steinle