

## Universal Technical Institute Celebrates Grand Opening Of New Jersey Campus And Announces New Manufacturer Training Program

BLOOMFIELD, N.J., Oct. 25, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Local businesses, elected officials, industry executives, and education and community leaders gathered Wednesday night to commemorate the grand opening of Universal Technical Institute (NYSE: UTI)'s new state-of-the-industry campus in Bloomfield, New Jersey.

The company's thirteenth campus and its first in the Tri-State Area, UTI-Bloomfield will give students throughout the region high-tech, hands-on training in automotive and diesel service technology and prepare them to fill high-demand careers in the transportation industry. This "metro model" campus serves a commuter population and, with access to public transit, allows students to live and work at home, while they train. Programs are designed to give students flexible schedules, and reduce the overall cost of their education.

During the event, Ford Motor Company announced that the company will offer its Ford Accelerated Credential Training (FACT) at UTI-Bloomfield. This 15-week advanced program trains students to work with Ford's exclusive technology and state-of-the-industry computer diagnostics, electrical and diesel technologies. Students are eligible to take Ford FACT after they successfully complete UTI's core automotive or diesel programs. Since Ford and UTI launched FACT in 2000, more than 25,000 students have graduated from the program.

"Ford is invested in building a pipeline of qualified technicians by encouraging schools such as UTI-Bloomfield to include FACT," said Dave Johnson, Ford Motor Company's global director, Service Engineering Operations. "As an added action, Ford recently developed a new program geared toward increasing recruitment and retention of automotive service technicians. This grass roots initiative aims to drive partnerships between automotive training programs and hiring Ford and Lincoln Dealers enabling future career opportunities in this high demand profession."

UTI-Bloomfield's grand opening celebration featured tours of the 108,000-square-foot facility, remarks from Johnson and UTI's Chief Operating Officer, Jerome Grant, as well as a keynote address by Robert Asaro-Angelo, the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, who brought greetings and support from Governor Phil Murphy.

"Building a stronger and fairer New Jersey economy starts with investing in our people," the Governor said via video, "and UTI is giving New Jersey's talented workforce the skills and training they need to pursue successful and fulfilling careers in the transportation and automotive industries."

In his remarks, Asaro-Angelo also highlighted the importance of robust technical education in New Jersey and across the country, and the need for new, well-trained technicians in the automotive and diesel industries, especially given today's technological advancements and innovations.

"Career Technical Education programs such as UTI's bring an element of reality and practicality to the classroom and match the real-world needs of our Garden State employers," said Asaro-Angelo.

In addition to providing high-tech training and career opportunities for up to 800 students per year in the Tri-State area, UTI Bloomfield will serve local employers' urgent need for trained technicians and play an important role in building the region's skilled workforce. Businesses in the New York/New Jersey area -- and across the nation -- are facing critical skilled labor shortages, and transportation is no exception. [According to projections by the Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) there will be, on average, more than 120,000 job openings in the automotive, diesel and collision repair industries each year from 2016 through 2026<sup>1</sup>.

"There's never been a better time to be an auto or diesel technician," said Grant. "These high-skill jobs pay well and offer ample career opportunities, and demand for our graduates only continues to grow. Thanks to our instructors, staff and the leaders and employers assembled here tonight, we are building the workforce of tomorrow and creating real, meaningful opportunities for our students."

As part of its work to meet industry's demand for trained technicians, UTI partners with more than 30 of the nation's leading transportation brands, who help shape the curricula and outfit campuses with the latest vehicles and the same tools and sophisticated technology graduates will see and use on the job. The company's employer partners hire UTI graduates, and many -- over 3,800 nationwide -- offer tuition reimbursement and other incentives. Students get the skills employers are looking for, and businesses get well-trained people who are ready to hit the ground running. More than four out of five UTI graduates are employed full-time in their field within a year of graduating<sup>2</sup>, with the support of UTI's robust career placement and assistance services.

The campus represents a more than \$11 million investment by UTI in the region. At full capacity, it will employ over 60 educators and other personnel and train up to 800 students each year in Automotive and Diesel Technology. Students can be ready to work in as little as 11 months in the 45-week diesel program or the 51-week core automotive program .

**About Universal Technical Institute, Inc.**

With more than 200,000 graduates in its 53-year history, Universal Technical Institute, Inc. (NYSE: UTI) is the nation's leading provider of technical training for automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle and marine technicians, and offers welding technology and computer numerical control (CNC) machining programs. The company has built partnerships with industry leaders, outfits its state-of-the-industry facilities with current technology, and delivers training that is aligned with employer needs. Through its network of 13 campuses nationwide, UTI offers post-secondary programs under the banner of several well-known brands, including Universal Technical Institute (UTI), Motorcycle Mechanics Institute and Marine Mechanics Institute (MMI) and NASCAR Technical Institute (NASCAR Tech). The company is headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona. For more information, visit [uti.edu](http://uti.edu).

<sup>1</sup> Based on data compiled from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment Projections (2016-2026)*, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov), viewed October 24, 2017. The projected number of annual job openings, by job classification is: Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics, 75,900; Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists, 28,300; Automotive Body and Related Repairers, 17,200. Job openings include openings due to growth and net replacements.

<sup>2</sup> Approximately 8,600 of the 9,200 UTI graduates in 2016 were available for employment. At the time of reporting, approximately 7,400 were employed within one year of their graduation date, for a total of 86%. This rate excludes graduates not available for employment because of continuing education, military service, health, incarceration, death or international student status. The rate includes graduates who completed manufacturer-specific advanced training programs and those employed in positions that were obtained before or during their UTI education, where the primary job duties after graduation align with the educational and training objectives of the program. UTI cannot guarantee employment or salary

**Media Contact :**

Adam Tucker  
201-964-2409  
[atucker@mww.com](mailto:atucker@mww.com)

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