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## **TWO FORMER GTCC STUDENTS NOW INSTRUCTORS GEARED TO HELPING OTHERS BECOME MECHANICS**

JAMESTOWN – Josh Gilbert wears GM on his jacket and fellow Guilford Technical Community College instructor Jim Pressly proudly sports a Ford Motor Company label. But there isn't any competition in their mission.

Both of these national award-winning automotive technicians want to share their skills with another crop of would-be technicians.

They have combined their efforts for another GTCC Automotive Open House from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Thursday (April 2). The event is open to the public free of charge. The session will be in Automotive Building on the rear of the Jamestown campus. Parking will be available in lot J across from Ragsdale Family YMCA.

Information will be available about College Tech Prep Scholarships for Guilford County high school graduates. A session from 6 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. will provide details about how affordable a degree in automotive technology can be.

Both instructors were national award winners in the national competition while students at GTCC. Pressly, 39, returned to the college to teach in 2000 after having worked at two auto dealerships. Meanwhile, he has earned a bachelor's degree in automotive management Technology at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Pressly heads the college's Ford Automotive Student Service Education Training (ASSET) program.

Gilbert, 29, became a fulltime instructor in the General Motors ASEP program at GTCC in 2003. "In my first year I had a student win first place in the National SkillsUSA competition," he said.

"Many people don't realize that we have two manufacturer sponsored programs at GTCC," said Gilbert, a GM World Class Technician. He also worked at a couple of automotive dealerships before becoming a fulltime instructor.

Both have won several honors for their mechanical expertise but haven't stopped learning, they said. Pressly, a Ford Senior Master technician, has plans to work on a master's degree, and Gilbert has been accepted in the bachelor's degree on-line program in automotive technology at Weber State University.

Pressly said, "Josh and I both take our programs very seriously because we are products of them and we believe strongly in them."

Both have impressive credentials, according to Rankin Barnes, another Ford ASSET instructor at GTCC. "Both men have earned the summa cum laude of automotive technicians," he said. "Josh is a General Motors World Class

Technician, and Jim is a Ford Senior Master Technician who won the Ford Senior Master Regional Challenge,” Barnes said.

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