

Spring Automotive Interns Take a Bow

By Keith T. Kerman



Late last year, the Chief Executive Officer of the Ford Company made national [news](#) stating that Ford had 5,000 high paid mechanic jobs but could not find candidates. This shortage of qualified skilled trades staff has been documented in many areas nationally.

In that context, developing the next generation of city mechanics is a critical task. DCAS has partnered with NYC Public Schools and the major fleet agencies including NYPD, FDNY, DSNY, DOT, and Parks to do just that. On June 4, at Tweed Courthouse, we celebrated our latest class of spring automotive interns. Thirty-two students from 5 NYC Public Automotive High Schools completed a season of hands-on paid internships in the garages, learning the job from talented and committed city mechanics and supervisors.

DCAS Commissioner Yume Kitasei and Schools Career and Technical Education Deputy Executive Director Adam Breier joined fleet managers citywide to celebrate and congratulate the students. DCAS Deputy Commissioner Katrina Porter told the students that a new auto service worker civil service exam would be offered in July, and her team were on hand to help the students navigate the process. To help encourage the students, DCAS credits their automotive degree in place of the two-year work requirement for the exam, allowing a direct path to city employment. DC Porter also discussed other ways that DCAS is supporting the students in their potential pursuit of city jobs.



Carly Gerlin was selected as the student speaker for the ceremony. He attends the School of Cooperative Technical Education and completed his internship with the NYPD at Shop 9 in Manhattan which handles police cars and supports other agencies like DOT and DEP. His favorite part of the experience was learning and assisting with oil changes, a skill he grew increasingly confident in over time. Each season, the Office of Student Pathways and Grant Associates choose the student who demonstrates the greatest passion and growth in their abilities to represent the class. For many years, the auto internship program was a summer initiative only. In November 2024, DCAS and NYC Public Schools [announced](#) the program was expanding to year-round.

NYC employs 1,300 technical fleet staff in titles including mechanic, auto service worker, supervisor of mechanical equipment, auto electrician, and more. It's one of the largest fleet repair operations on the east coast of the United States and agencies complete 250,000 repair work orders every year. Behind the scenes, these skilled technicians ensure that critical public services such as policing, fire

services, waste removal, and snow plowing can be delivered every day, all day, in NYC. Developing this workforce and preparing them for a future of electric and more technologically complex vehicles is vital.

Along with the students, the fleet staff and mechanics at the agencies are the heart of the program. One team of brothers, from the automotive and teaching professions, have truly dedicated their time and devotion to this initiative. James D'Ambrosio at NYPD Fleet, along with his brother Gerard, have helped train and employ hundreds of students and taken this initiative on their shoulders. We [spotlighted](#) Gerard's efforts in 2017. Just a few weeks ago, James joined his brother in retirement. We want to thank them both for decades of service and especially growing the auto high internship initiative.



Thanks also to Brandon Clarke of DCAS for managing the internship program citywide, Grant Associates who organizes the program each year for NYC Public Schools, Kevin Kenny at NYPD, Gabriel Gordon and Matt Class of FDNY, Eli Ramirez of NYC Parks, Donelle Brown and Kadian Outar of DCAS Human Capital, and everyone else at DCAS and the fleet agencies who support this effort. In just a few weeks, summer session will begin. We look forward to our end of summer cookout and recognizing a next successful class!



Couch to 5K Training Program | Happening in June!

Want to complete a 5K, but don't consider yourself a runner? Join WorkWell NYC for a 4-week self-paced training program on the Count.It app to get ready!

Hit weekly running goals to build endurance, increase distance, and get yourself ready for the asynchronous in-app virtual race on **June 30**.

Track your progress and hype up your colleagues on the [Count.It app](#). Use your mobile device to visit on.nyc.gov/count-it with **group invite code ecf4**. All levels of running are welcome to join!

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All experience levels welcome.

[Register here](#) to join!

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