

NYC Fleet: Automotive Interns Summer 2018

By: Keith T. Kerman and Lenin Fierro

There are lots of ways for high school students to spend the summer, but none that we appreciate more at Fleet than our summer automotive interns. This week, we wrap up a successful hands-on internship program involving 29 talented students from DOE's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. The students served as paid summer interns from July 11 through August 17.

These students completed hands-on internships at ten separate facilities including fleet garages at NYPD, FDNY and DOT and also with our CRASH unit at DCAS. An additional 11 students completed their automotive internships at MTA garages.

Students from Alfred E. Smith, Automotive High, and Tottenville High were joined this year by students from Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology, Aviation High, Bronx Design and Construction Academy, School of Cooperative Technical Education, and Ralph R. McKee High School.



Through the internships, City supervisor of mechanics (SOMEs) and auto mechanics serve as mentors for the interns, guiding them through the day-to-day functions of a busy repair and maintenance facility where they can apply all the basic skills they learned in the class room. Students check batteries and brakes, change tires, check and change oil and fluids, and learn to do inspection checks. Vladimir Lerner, SOME at DOT, states that students, "learn about different aspects of repair shop operations like preventive maintenance, running repairs, and environmentally responsible recycling programs."

FDNY Fleet Director Louis Morbelli welcomed the students' participation at his facility and wanted to thank them for their hard work and dedication this summer.

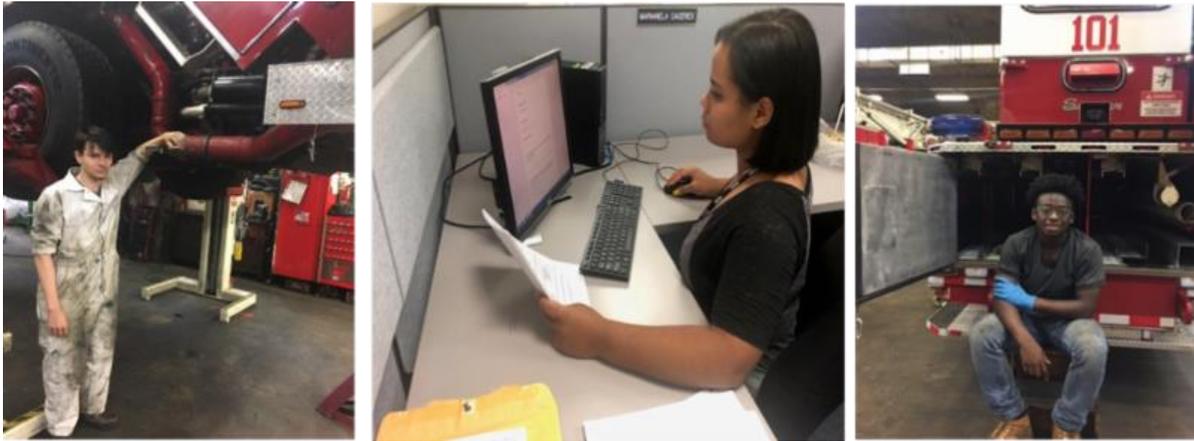
"I believe the experience was very gratifying both for them and the FDNY mechanics at the shop as they enjoyed teaching the interns."

Louis added that "this is an awesome program. We believe the interns are the future for fleet."

In addition to their hands on tasks, students tour the garages and agency workplaces and job shadow in complex repairs.

The automotive internship is just one piece of the partnership among DCAS Fleet and DOE. DCAS also provides vehicles for hands-on training at individual schools, supplies electric vehicles and chargers for DOE driver education programs, and partners on educational and safety initiatives. In the next year, DCAS will also join MTA in co-chairing CTE's Automotive and Transportation Commission.

Thanks to all the participating agencies and to DOE and CTE for another successful summer. DCAS will publish the list of student participants on our website.



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