



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner
Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

JULY 22, 2016

ISSUE 147

SUMMER AUTOMOTIVE INTERNSHIPS IN FULL SWING

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

For some high school students, summer is associated with summer school, attending a camp, or lying on the beach. For NYC's top automotive students, it means the chance to work at City Garages on real City equipment. July marked the start of the 2016 Summer Automotive High School Internship program. City agencies including DCAS, NYPD, FDNY, DSNY and DOT are hosting over 50 paid high school interns at automotive repair and administrative facilities in all five boroughs for a six week program that started on July 5th.

Interns are chosen with a competitive process based on grades and attendance. They work hands-on with mechanics and supervisors to fix vehicles such as police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, and garbage trucks, assist with issuing parts, or perform database management. This year for the first time, DOT is participating in the program by hosting four students in Bronx and Staten Island. The program is supported with federal grant funds and administered by Fleet in partnership with DOE's Work-Based Learning (WBL) team. In addition to the internships, DCAS supports the automotive public high schools with used vehicles for training and electric cars for driver's education. DCAS adjusted the experience requirement of the Auto Service Worker civil service exam to credit the automotive high degrees.



High school interns also actively participate in DCAS events including the fleet show held in May and the fleet safety forum held in November. This has been a terrific partnership and has helped us train and motivate a new class of automotive professionals and diversify those pursuing this important trade. Thanks to DOE and all the City agencies who are supporting this partnership.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: TOTTENVILLE HIGH SOLAR PIRATES

AMARA MONDESIR



Speaking of NYC's automotive high school students, the Solar Car Challenge is a national high school contest started in 1993 as a fun way to bring awareness of alternative energy and to get high school students more involved in science and engineering. This year's challenge is a 7-day race from Fort Worth, Texas to Minneapolis, Minnesota and began last Sunday, July 17. The Tottenville High School Solar Pirates are one of 21 teams from across the nation and the only team from New York City. As of race day 4, they are toward the front of the pack.

Tottenville has participated in the Solar Car Challenge since 2011 and is comprised of 9 members of the Tottenville High School Green Technology Club, from Freshmen to Seniors; three are alternating drivers and the rest are the pit crew. Students perform all the work to build, maintain, and operate the car themselves under supervision of their faculty moderators Mr. Charles Dazzo, Mr. Gerard D'Ambrosio, and other faculty in the school's automotive shop. *High Energy #5* pictured above is powered exclusively by the sun and debuted in 2013, with mechanical upgrades every year. The solar car program is entirely funded through sponsorship from local businesses and community organizations.

From 2012 to 2014, the Solar Pirates finished in second place. They'll cross the finish line in Minnesota on Saturday, July 23, and we look forward to a strong finish by NYC's hometown team!

The future is now at Tottenville. Mr. Dazzo says that he hopes the program expands to other NYC schools as well.