

Lawson State Community College

Newest Member of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium

The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State Community College is the newest member of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC). Tommy Hobbs, Business and Industry Liaison, plans to accept the College's membership plaque in Dallas, Texas on December 12, 2008 while attending the Consortium's newest training on Hybrid Vehicles. "The College is diligently working to bring the leading transportation technology to Alabama," said Perry Ward, President of Lawson State Community College. "The National Alternative Fuels Training Center and the Snap-on Diagnostic Training Center are our two newest training opportunities at the Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence," added Dr. Ward.

One of the newest classes to be offered through the Consortium will be First Responder Safety Training: Hybrid Electric Vehicles. Additional classes and workshops to be offered by Lawson State include a wide array of topics such as biodiesel, ethanol, hybrids, hydrogen, fuel cells, natural gas (CNG cylinder inspection, LNG, and light- and heavy-duty vehicles), battery-powered electric vehicles, and propane. Courses on transient emissions testing and AFV applications for forklift and material handling will also be available. This new technology is especially relevant to automotive technicians, employers, fleet operators, training institutions, public interest groups, and private entrepreneurs.

The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium is a pioneer and a national leader in promoting programs and activities that desire to cure America's addiction to oil and lead to energy independence and the greater use of cleaner transportation. The NAFTC is the only nationwide alternative fuel vehicle and advanced technology vehicle training organization in the United States!

Founded in 1992, the NAFTC is headquartered at West Virginia University and presently consists of 36 National Training Centers spanning the country from New York to California. Each center provides *Training with Impact* through its experienced instructors and real-world shop facilities. Approximately 70 Affiliate and Associate members also support the NAFTC's mission to provide the training infrastructure for implementing the widespread use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, and advanced technology vehicles. The Consortium's effort to increase our nation's energy security, as well as improve our air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is embodied in its motto "Because Clean Air and Energy Independence Matter."

The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State Community College's Bessemer campus offers students an associate degree in automotive technology which allows them to specialize in GM, Ford, or Toyota technology. The Center also has excellent auto body/collision repair and medium/heavy truck technology programs. Lawson State leads the southeast in transportation programs. For more information about Alternative Fuel classes or other automotive educational opportunities contact Tommy Hobbs, 205-929-3521.