

## Automotive Grads Find Success Across Industry



Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology's automotive technology program is the oldest of its kind in the country, -first opening its doors in 1908 to train technicians to repair the earliest automobiles. Today, students are trained in a "live" automotive shop environment where they are responsible for checking in customer vehicles, running diagnostic tests, ordering parts, and making repairs. This hands-on training prepares students for a variety of positions in the industry.

Three recent BFIT graduates found work at Shaker Auto Group, but each with a different role at the company. Juan Franco '14 is now working as a Product Specialist in sales at Wellesley Mazda. "My experience at BFIT was great. The hands-on learning was phenomenal," Franco said. "Having the technical background gives me an advantage when I speak with customers."

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Andrison Carrera '15, worked part-time at Shaker Auto Group while still taking classes. Speaking about his experience at the college, Carrera said, "BFIT has a very good reputation because it is a comprehensive program. In today's world, even in the automotive industry, it's common for people to have a degree." With his industry experience, Carrera was recently hired at another Boston area dealership after graduation and continues to use the skills he learned in the classroom and on the job site.

Another former classmate, Raoul Junior Joseph '14, focuses on vehicle acquisition. Joseph applies his knowledge of cars to the retail side of the industry, purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars in pre-owned vehicles online per week. "When I graduated, I was applying to a lot of places. I was surprised how quickly dealerships noticed my resume. BFIT opens the doors of opportunity for you."

Joe Shaker, owner of Shaker Auto Group and member of the BFIT Board of Trustees, realizes the enormous potential of the college's graduates, "BFIT students are so well-rounded," Shaker said. "They learn automotive technology, and also interpersonal, communication, and management skills. It's clear they've had a comprehensive and in-depth education."