

# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Automotive Youth Educational Systems*

**Grant Amount:** \$600,000

**Grantee:** Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES)

**Key Partners:** Members of AYES Board including General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motors, Toyota, Volkswagen, Mercedes, Honda, BMW, Audi, Subaru, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Hyundai, and Kia Motors. Other partners include SkillsUSA and the National Automobile Dealers Association

**Leveraged Amount:** \$1,050,000 in cash and in-kind support from AYES, participating high schools, automotive manufacturers, and state-level sponsoring automotive dealer organizations

**Location of Grant Activities:** Nationwide

**Challenge:** With the increased pace of technological changes in recent years and the lack of awareness about career opportunities, it has become increasingly difficult for the automotive industry to find qualified body and service technicians. The number of new graduates from secondary and associate degree automotive programs does not come close to the demand for the 12,000 to 15,000 additional technicians needed nationwide each year.

**Addressing the Challenge:** The AYES initiative addresses this workforce challenge by supporting the development and growth of select, industry-standard automotive technician training programs at technical high schools. It encourages students to pursue careers in automotive service technology and collision repair/refinish and prepares them for entry-level technician positions or challenging academic options that offer professional certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. AYES emphasizes applied academics and contextual classroom learning and provides participating students with mentored worksite internships. Overall, 5,662 students from 334 schools in 44 states have completed the AYES curriculum. A network of 3,951 automotive dealers and 3,906 mentors supports participating students. 98% of AYES graduates are placed in automotive dealerships, and 73% of graduates have been retained in automotive careers.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- With its \$600,000 grant, AYES will be able to certify 5,000 additional students through on-line tests that link high school automotive programs to professional certifications, while increasing the number of programs offered nationwide. Significant industry support for the AYES program clearly demonstrates its value and promotes opportunities for the expansion, replication, and long-term impact of AYES.