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AUTO COLLISION AND REPAIR RECEIVES COLLISION REPAIR EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S MAKEOVER GRANT

ATHENS, GA – Athens Technical College's Auto Collision and Repair program hosted a reception in recognition of being awarded the Collision Repair Education Foundation's (CREF) Makeover Grant. The funds for the grant were raised by industry members in association with the Atlanta I-CAR (Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision and Repair) committee. The event, was held on the College's Athens Campus and was attended by I-CAR and CREF officials, as well as members of the Athens Technical College Automotive Collision Repair Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is made up of local industry partners including Patton Brothers Body and Frame, Heyward Allen Toyota Body Shop, Georgia Square Collision, and Auto Paint Specialty.

Of the over 100 schools that applied, only four institutions were awarded the grant. The money awarded to Athens Technical College's Auto Collision and Repair Program has been used to purchase:

- A parts and vehicle preparation station
- Riveting equipment
- Drilling and grinding equipment
- Aluminum welding fume extractor
- Suspension equipment
- Epoxy floor

Greg Thomas, Program Chair for Auto Collision and Repair remarked, "The Collision Repair Education Foundation Makeover Grant has made a dramatic improvement in the Automotive Collision Repair Program at Athens Technical College. As the technologies on late model vehicles continue to evolve at an incredible pace, this grant has vaulted us forward to help provide the students with the most current equipment and technology in the industry today." Greg went on to say, "In addition to the tools and equipment provided, the refinished floors, also provided by CREF, have created an amazing transformation in the appearance and atmosphere of the shop. The combined effect of all of these improvements provided by the grant was far greater than I could have imagined! We are very grateful to the Collision Repair Education Foundation, Atlanta I-CAR committee, and the industry partners that made this possible."

The CREF Makeover Grant is awarded annually and will make a lasting impact on Athens Technical College's Auto Collision and Repair program and its students.

About CREF: Established in 1991, The Collision Repair Education Foundation was developed to promote and distribute a curriculum program designed to teach the skills most needed by entry-level employees of collision repair shops. Today, nearly two-thirds of the 1,370 collision repair schools in the United States use the I-CAR Live or Advance-Tech curriculum.

About I-CAR: I-CAR is the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair, is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing the information, knowledge and skills required to perform complete, safe and quality repairs. Formed in 1979 out of a collaboration across the six segments of the collision repair Inter-Industry, I-CAR serves and is represented by all segments of the Inter-Industry: Collision repair, insurance, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), education, training, research, tools, equipment and supply. I-CAR's focus is to provide everyone involved in collision repair with access to high-quality, industry-recognized training solutions. I-CAR also encourages and supports ongoing conversations in the industry on issues that impact collision repair.

About Athens Technical College: Since 1958, Athens Technical College has served citizens by providing quality educational programs in a 10-county service area. The College offers over 130 program specializations in business, health, technical, and manufacturing-related areas. Students attend Athens Technical College on five campuses (Athens-Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Walton Counties plus the Athens Community Career Academy), Adult Learning Centers, and through Continuing Education opportunities. Athens Technical College is an Equal Opportunity Institution and a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia. To

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Antoine Boynton at (706) 583-5225 or email at aboynton@athenstech.edu.



Pictured (L-R): Stacy Bartnik, I-CAR, Brandon Eckenrode; Director of Development, CREF, Greg Thomas; Program Chair, Auto Collision and Repair, Dr. Andrea Daniel; President, Athens Technical College, Gerry Poirier; Committee Chairman, Atlanta I-Car Committee