

January 5, 2001

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### **Metro Auto Dealers Launch Training at Skills Center**

The Metro Portland Auto Dealers Association meets in Vancouver, Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the Clark County Skills Center. At 10:30am, a formal ceremony known as a Dealer Launch will officially announce the approval of the Skills Center as an AYES Certified Automotive Program.

To develop qualified entry-level technicians for the automotive industry, AYES (Automotive Youth Educational Systems) promotes student exploration of retail automotive careers. The participating high school juniors and seniors enrolled in the Skills Center Automotive Technology program will learn the basics of automotive technology in addition to relevant math, science and communication skills. They will also learn through on-the-job experiences at dealerships and retail facilities. Upon graduation, they will be able to move directly into full-time employment at a dealership and/or pursue further studies at a college level.

AYES is a program of NATEF -- the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation -- which evaluates training programs leading to certification by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). The manufacturers sponsoring AYES include GM, Honda, Mercedes Benz, Ford, Daimler-Chrysler and Toyota. In 2000, the Skills Center Automotive Technology program was certified by ASE in the areas of Brakes, Electrical/Electronic Systems, Engine Performance and Suspension & Steering. The AYES program will be implemented at the Skills Center February 8<sup>th</sup>.

For more information about Tuesday's Dealer Launch, contact Lynn Olson, Skills Center Associate Director (360) 604-1050; Kirk Van Gelder, Skills Center Automotive Technology instructor (360) 903-4976; or Bill Panaretos, Metro Portland Auto Dealers Association (503) 233-5044.

The Skills Center, 12200 NE 28<sup>th</sup> Street in Vancouver, is owned and operated by eight southwest Washington school districts. It provides fifteen technical and professional training programs to prepare secondary students for the work force.