



## **ASSOCIATION PROFILE**

### **Automotive Youth Educational Systems**

Size: Large  
Region: All  
Industry: Automotive

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[www.ayes.org](http://www.ayes.org)

**School-to-Career Partnership Contact:**  
California School-to-Career Action Network  
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### **Overview**

Designed to address the scarcity of qualified entry-level technicians in the automotive industry, Automotive Youth Educational Systems (Automotive YES) has brought together more than 75 high schools and 100 automotive dealerships to prepare youth for automotive technician careers. The program begins in the 11th grade and continues through graduation, combining automotive classes, mentoring and internships. A certificate of achievement of technical and employability skills is issued to students upon successful completion. Ten auto manufacturers and numerous retailers and dealer associations support Automotive YES.

### **Critical Success Factors**

Below are several critical success factors for Automotive YES and its School-to-Career activities:

- Start small and build on success.
- Create connections and pathways to higher education attainment.
- Provide industry-validated certification of skills.

### **Automotive YES's Path to Success**

Initiated by General Motors in 1995, Automotive YES now actively involves most of the major auto manufacturers doing business in the U.S. Since its inception, the program has succeeded in meeting the urgent need of local dealerships for qualified workers while ensuring direct links to academic achievement. The program grows through the efforts of its dedicated staff and high-powered board of directors, which includes several presidents of automotive corporations.

### **Strategies/Activities**

- Job shadowing
- Quality internships for high school/Regional Occupational Program (ROP) students
- Guest speaking and teaching in local classrooms
- Advocacy on behalf of School-to-Career and support for the involvement of other companies
- Advisory board participation
- Certification and career placement for student graduates of the program