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ATC Spotlight



ATC students earn Grainger scholarships

Athens Technical College students Nathan Major, an automotive and diesel technician student, and John Canazon, an industrial systems technology student, were recently awarded \$2,000 scholarships by Grainger, a distributor of industrial maintenance supplies. Major and Canazon are two of 200 students in the U.S. to be offered the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow® scholarship for 2011. After graduation, both students will receive customized Westward® toolkits from Grainger to help launch their careers.

"Today's Athens Technical College students will become tomorrow's industrial skilled tradesmen, dedicated to keeping the Georgia communities working and growing," said Walter Wellborn manager of Grainger's branch in Athens. "One of the best ways to invest in local communities is to contribute to the education of our future tradesmen and women."

There is a growing gap between industry's workforce needs and the skills of job seekers.

Both Major and Canazon decided to pursue technical degrees to improve their skills in their respective trades.

After graduating high school, Major decided to take a look at Athens Technical College to pursue his growing passion for automotive repair. Having completed the automotive technology program at Athens Tech, he is now pursuing certification in diesel repair.

Canazon sees the education he is receiving at Athens Tech as a way to continue to enhance the custom cabinet shop he operates with his wife.

The Industrial Systems Technology program is preparing him for the

real-word scenarios that he deals with in his business. Upon completion of the Industrial Systems Technology, Canazon plans to work toward finishing an associate degree at Athens Tech.

"It will be very beneficial to have the extra money for school," Canazon said of the Grainger Scholarship. "The tools will also be very useful in the near future."

Grainger, in conjunction with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), launched the Grainger Tools for Tomorrow® scholarship program in 2006.

Photo caption: Dr. Larry Siefferman, ATC vice president for off-campus operations; Walter Wellborn, Grainger Athens branch manager; ATC students Johnny Canazon and Nathan Major; Susan Larson, dean of ATC Technical & Industrial Division.

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