

## NATEF PROFILE

The concept for the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) began in 1978 with the Industry Planning Council (IPC) at the American Vocational Association Convention. The IPC, composed of representatives from the automotive industry and vocational education, was concerned about the quality of automotive education nationwide. They directed a multi-year study, which developed a task list, tools and equipment list, and program standards. By 1982 the IPC was in search of an organization to develop and administer an evaluation plan for automotive training programs. The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was selected and NATEF was set up to administer the evaluation process. NATEF is a separate 501 (c) (3) foundation, which is solely responsible for the program evaluation process. Based on the evaluation, NATEF will recommend automotive training programs for ASE program accreditation. The primary goal of accreditation is program improvement.

The evaluation process involves two major steps: an extensive self-evaluation followed by an on-site evaluation. Program instructors, administrators, and advisory committee members rate the program on ten standards encompassing: Purpose, Administration, Learning Resources, Finances, Student Services, Instruction, Equipment, Facilities, Instructional Staff, and Cooperative Work Agreements. The evaluation helps target areas that are outstanding and those that need improvement according to national standards that have been identified by representatives of the automotive industry. Programs then submit their application and self-evaluation materials to the NATEF office. If it appears that a program has met the standards, an on-site evaluation is scheduled. The on-site evaluation will be conducted by an Evaluation Team Leader (ETL) and also by local technicians who agree to serve as team members. The ETL is an educator who has also earned ASE certified master technician designation, and has been trained by NATEF to lead the evaluation. The evaluation team submits their final report to NATEF and ASE grants accreditation if the program meets all of the standards. Programs must be reaccredited every five years.

Over 2,000 Automobile, Collision Repair & Refinish, Medium/Heavy Truck, and Light/Medium Duty Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) programs are accredited in secondary and post-secondary institutions across our nation.

There have been several studies on the effects of ASE program accreditation on student learning outcomes. The most recent and the most rigorous study was conducted by The Ohio State University in 1995. **OSU researchers concluded that ASE program accreditation has a significant, positive effect on the learning that takes place in automotive technician training programs.**