



## WCC Graduate Achieves His Goal

By: Sandy Sheets



In 1995, when Wesley Triplett and his parents visited the Wilkes Community College campus during the *Open House and Auto Expo*, Triplett told an automotive technology instructor, "I want to get a bachelor's degree in automotive technology and go to work as a field representative for one of the major car manufacturers." He began his journey by enrolling in WCC's automotive systems technology program in the fall of 1995.

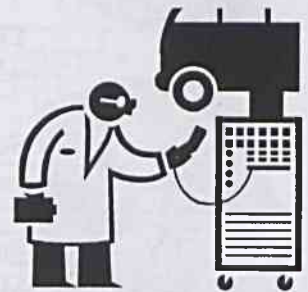


Triplett reached the first step of his goal when in the spring of 1997 he graduated from WCC with an associate in applied science degree in automotive systems technology.

With a grade point average (GPA) of 3.53, Triplett had no problem transferring to Southern Illinois University, one of only five colleges or universities in the country to offer a bachelor's degree program in automotive technology. While at Southern Illinois, he again proved himself willing to work hard to accomplish his goal. Going to school for five consecutive semesters, Triplett received his bachelor's degree this spring with a GPA of 3.68. He was on the dean's list while at SIU and graduated cum laude.

When asked about his transfer to Southern Illinois from WCC, Triplett stated, "Wilkes prepared me well for SIU." He continued, "The classes I needed to take at Southern Illinois fit well with the program I had left at Wilkes so I transferred and continued my studies without any problems."

While enrolled at SIU, Triplett worked in a summer internship program at the General Motors Training Center and two one-week externship programs during the 1998 and 1999 spring breaks. He was also chosen to participate in a "Job Shadow" program sponsored by the SIU alumni association at the Ford Training Center in Charlotte, NC where dealership technicians are trained.



Upon receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in automotive technology, Triplett achieved the educational phase of his dream for the future. Now, what about his goal to work for a major car manufacturer? Triplett is in the process of moving to Sterling, Michigan to begin training for his new job as a district service manager for Daimler Chrysler Corporation in the Chrysler call center in Detroit.

WCC instructor in the automotive systems technology program, Jim Triplett, is very proud of Wesley Triplett's success. He stated, "Wesley was an excellent student while at Wilkes and I am not at all surprised by his accomplishments." "He has the drive and determination to achieve his goals," stated Triplett.

According to a college news release, "WCC graduates enter the job market with the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful as automotive technicians. Salaries are the best they have ever been for highly skilled and trained automotive technicians."

Those considering a career as an automotive technician should contact Roger Brown or Jim Triplett at Wilkes Community College at 336-838-6283.

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