

# Coaches Corner

Interview with Michael McAfee, Technical Team Leader for the  
Toyota TPA Program in Exton, PA



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**Who are you?** Michael McAfee, Technical Team Leader TAPT UTI Exton. I graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology (TTEN School) with associates degrees in Automotive Technology and Automotive service Management specializing in Toyota. Before coming to UTI in May of 2005 I worked for Toyota, Chrysler and Snap-on Tools.

**What special skills and or Certifications do you have?** I have been an ASE Master Technician since 1997 and waiting to recertify in L1. I have completed all of the available Toyota Manufacturer trainings and several Lexus Manufacturer trainings as well as extensive Chrysler training.

**What's your favorite automobile?** Toyota Tundra

**Why should students consider TPAT?** In TPAT we use a blended learning style which challenges our students. We use Web based courses along with Instructor led discussions that are reinforced with hands on tasks in the lab. The class appeals to all students because of the small class size, modern shop equipment and curriculum. The environment allows for a lot of one on one time with the instructor and individualized skill growth for the student. **Any employer regardless of brand would benefit from hiring a TPAT student.**



**What should a student expect walking into your TPAT Courses?** In TPAT students are in a dealership environment with a lot of responsibility and a high level of expectations placed upon them. The curriculum is straight from Toyota. Students are challenged both academically and with their hands. All students are expected to be able to perform the tasks required before they can move forward.

**What should a student bring into your class?** Students should bring an open mind, a willingness to learn, and a positive attitude.

**What should a student expect after graduation?** In the weeks leading up to graduation the students will work closely with our employment services department whose level of professionalism is second to none. They will have already completed a geographic survey and should feel a high level of confidence walking into their first job interview. Their resume will speak for itself and their time in the program will have prepared them for any task that comes their way during their first months of employment.

**Anything else we should know?** The TPAT program uses the same class curriculum and lab tasks that are found at the Regional Training Centers for Toyota. Students receive 9 course certifications and are well prepared for the dealership environment. After passing 2 ASE credentials and successfully working for 8 weeks at a Toyota/Lexus dealer, they become a certified Toyota Technician and are well on their way to becoming a Toyota Master Technician in a few short years.