



Eli Keifenheim, Ford FACT, Glendale Heights, IL



As campus Registrar, Marianne Oliver, filtered through the prospective students who are approaching graduation, she happily found one student in particular who stood out among the rest. This student, is 20 year old **Eli Keifenheim**, he enrolled in the Automotive/Diesel Industrial Program with a Ford elective. Attributed to his degree were a long list of awards and honors.

These awards included:

- ◆ **Perfect Attendance**
- ◆ **Alpha Beta Kappa**
- ◆ **Student of the Course for 30 of the 30 courses** he is taking here at UTI.

What was your motivation to receive Student of the Course in every course, why was that an objective for you?

My family has played a key role in my strive for perfection. They have always taught me to be the best that I can be. Before I came to UTI I worked for my dad in my home town of Brillion, WI, installing service pumps and wells in country homes. I found the mechanics of the pumps so interesting that it led me to other interests such as cars. My father also has a collection of vintage cars, which I would help him work on from time to time. It was these experiences which I believe gave me the mechanical aptitude necessary to achieve my goal here at UTI.

What are some of your extracurricular activities/ hobbies that you do in your spare time, that may lend to your excellence in the classroom?

I do a lot of independent reading on the topic of mechanics. I subscribe to the magazine *Popular Mechanics* and I also like to investigate subjects that interest me. I am a firm believer in being self-taught. I feel that you can learn anything if you put your mind to it. Besides reading, I also stimulate my mechanical senses by tinkering with anything I can get my hands on. I am really interested in how and why things work. I also like to work out.

What has been your favorite class at UTI?

My favorite course has been Hot Rod with Mr. Liss. I am very interested in muscle cars. He is a great teacher and that course was really interesting to me.

What do you plan to do once you have graduated?

I plan on continuing my education further. I would like to learn more about collision repair and would also like to learn how to weld. I would eventually like to restore muscle cars.

Do you have any advice for future and current UTI students?

I would tell them to think hard about their future, how are you going to further yourself after you leave UTI and what can you do now as a student to get the most of your time here. You should always have faith in yourself, don't set yourself at "half-throttle." As a student you should also always be asking questions; this is your education and there is no question too big or too small. Chances are if you have a question, someone else in the class has the same question; they are just too shy or embarrassed to ask.