Automotive Technology

Program Strengths and Accomplishments
The program provides opportunities for non-vocational students to explore various careers in the automotive industry, prepare students for entry level positions in the industry or for practitioners to retrain or enhance their present skills. The department schedules classes on a rotational basis so that students can achieve their educational goals within a two year period while maintaining their employment. A new Motorcycle Repair Program and an “online” repair information program have been introduced, which will provide students with additional occupational options. Part of the programs success is also due to the excellent partnerships the faculty has established with industry leaders i.e. Toyota Corporation, Volvo Penta, Car Quest Auto Parts and local dealerships. These companies have also provided excellent opportunities for student training and job placement. The program has also benefited from the generous donations made by these businesses. The faculty is commended for the work they have done on improving/expanding the program. Because of this, the T-Ten Program has been recognized as one of the top four T-Ten Programs in the United States, which is quite an honor. Faculty have worked hard pursuing economic development grants (ATTE), which provide additional resources for the department and training for colleges within the State. The strong relationship established with the high schools, ROP’s and the School of Continuing Education has provided opportunities for the faculty to recruit students for the program. Even though there was a slight decrease in the course completion rates and student retention, the department still maintains rates substantially higher than the college average. The department has done an excellent job in encouraging students to complete a Certificate and/or Associate degree in the program and because of this, there has been a doubling of certificates and degrees earned by students.

Other Issues Facing the Department
The department has been reasonable in requesting reassigned time for the department coordinator. This past year the college has under gone a review of reassigned time for all department coordinators. The process should be completed and implemented in fall, 2007. The faculty is encouraged to continue their participation in the process of developing Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment. As the college pursues State construction funds there is a possibility funds may be available in the future to expand lab instructional space and storage areas.

Goals/Action Plans for the Next Three Years
- Continue work on initiating Online and Hybrid classes
- Continue update on department Web Site to increase interest and student recruitment
- Maintain high student success and retention rates
- Identify and utilize more classroom and lab space for program
- Continue to support instructor update training in order to maintain the existing high level of instruction and program reputation
- Continue to modernize and update classrooms, labs and lab equipment