

## COCC Offers New Degree Program In Auto Management

*by Bend Weekly News Sources*

Central Oregon Community College recently received approval from the Oregon department of education to begin offering an associate of applied science degree in automotive management. With this degree, graduates could work as service advisers, assistant managers or eventually as managers for automotive, diesel, and recreational sports and marine dealerships or independent repair facilities. The graduate could also split jobs as a technician and adviser.

This degree option is a blend of business and automotive classes, according to Ken Mays, professor of automotive technology at COCC. Three local dealerships were consulted on the content of the curriculum.

“With the growth in size and numbers of automotive businesses, this degree meets a need in Central Oregon,” said Mays. “The service manager for Toyota of Bend told me he is doubling his technician and manager positions in the next seven months and Miller Ford in Madras needed three service writers this year.”

Starting annual salaries for automotive management positions are \$38,000 to \$45,000. Statewide the average annual salary is \$72,000.

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