

EDUCATING TECHNICIANS CAPABLE OF SERVICING TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION DEVICES.

Riverland Community College has an Automotive Service Excellence Education Foundation accredited Automotive Service Technology Program. The program will graduate Automotive Technicians with Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) and Autonomous Vehicle (AV) expertise. The project will use recently renovated and newly built space that includes a nearly 30,000 square foot building. The institutional investment in infrastructure will be leveraged to successfully accomplish the project goals. The project will provide faculty training, obtain and upgrade equipment, modify existing course offerings, and add new curricula advancing the skills of current and future automotive technicians with an Autonomous Vehicle Technician Advanced Certificate.

The student training will start with an introductory class in their first semester. This class will give the students a broad overview of concepts and technology as it relates to ADAS and the impact these technologies will have on the nature of automotive service work. Safety will be strongly emphasized.

In the fourth semester the students will further their learning by attending classes that thoroughly covers theory, service, and repair work as it relates to Autonomous Vehicles. The students will also participate in an internship activity covering all aspects of automotive service, including ADAS and AV. There is a critical need for technicians with ADAS and AV expertise. Due to the critical need, industry partners are expressing a strong interest and desire to work with the college in successfully implementing the project goals and will actively support our endeavor by offering internship positions and other support.

The instructors will develop and adapt curriculum relevant to ADAS and AV. This will be done in cooperation with our academic partners and collaborating ATE projects and centers. This project will make the program more adaptable and responsive to rapidly evolving industry needs and will have more appeal to technologically advanced students.

The project has a comprehensive approach to under served populations and by conducting outreach and awareness with internal and external partners the participation of these populations will increase in the program and the local workforce.

This project is funded by the Advanced Technological Education program that focuses on the education of technicians for the advanced-technology fields that drive the nation's economy.