Electricians in the Automobile Industry

A technical trade education from Rosedale Technical College can open the doors to a number of employment opportunities in a vast number of industries. When looking at the electrical technology program particularly, many of the College’s graduates go on to find work in areas such as residential, commercial and industrial fields. Did you know that as technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, the need for trade professionals with electrical training are needed more and more in the automotive industry?

The innovation of driverless, electric and hybrid vehicles has gone from being a mere vision of the future to a reality in today’s environment, not to mention the expanding use of electrical and electronic circuits in today’s cars. As engineers continue to develop these prototypes, electric-minded technicians will be needed to keep this technology ‘moving’ forward.

Let's begin by discussing driverless cars. Rideshare companies, such as Uber and Lyft, have begun to dive into the autonomous driving scene, taking people out of the driver seat and replacing them with electronics. According to a study, autonomous vehicles would reduce the cost of an Uber ride by as much as 80 percent. While initial costs to develop a fleet of autonomous vehicles could be costly, it could become cost effective in the future.

The next component to consider is the electrification of the autonomous vehicles. As advanced high voltage batteries have gotten cheaper, electric vehicle (EV) ranges have increased and the economic logic of electric vehicles has steadily improved. According to the Department of Energy’s eGallon, an electric vehicle is about 50 percent cheaper to fuel than a gasoline vehicle. This statement is made because while gasoline prices fluctuate at a rapid pace, the cost of electrical power seems to be very stable.

While automakers continue to explore ways of making electric vehicles more powerful and adaptable, and ride-share companies continue to experiment with autonomous vehicles, the average daily driver car has exceeded the capabilities of a typical 12 volt system. You can find electric power steering typically at 42 volts and direct fuel injection from 40 to 100 volts. With all the comforts from entertainment systems, satellite radio, heated and cooled seat, to heated and cooled storage boxes, it is easy to see the need for a higher voltage system and trained people to work on them.

The future of the automobile is at a turning point. While the person who can work well with their hands and understand mechanics is and will be in demand, there is an increasing need for those who understand and can diagnose electrical issues. In many shops this is becoming a skill where a few people may only do electrical work and nothing else. With an aging workforce, declining interest in the trades, and vehicles lasting longer, the need is out pacing the availability of new and qualified technicians.
Mike Barr From ‘Babysitter’ to Electrician

Mike Barr began his journey at Rosedale Tech in the evening electrical technician program in September 2015. After getting familiar with his classmates that would eventually be like family, Mike quickly earned the reputation of being a “babysitter” as he stayed home with his two young sons while his wife, a teacher, worked during the day.

“I always tell the guys it’s not babysitting if they are your kids. It’s parenting,” said Mike jokingly.

Prior to enrolling at Rosedale Tech, Mike was working part-time driving a tow truck, but wasn’t truly satisfied. He decided he needed to look into a career change. Mike had always worked second shift, which balanced the family-work life and allowed for him to be home with his kids during the day. When his wife went back to work after having their second son, Luke, Mike left his job driving the tow truck and started looking into schools, which landed him at Rosedale Tech.

At age 36, this was not Mike’s first time attending a higher education institution. After high school, Mike went to college to pursue a degree in history in the hopes of taking his passion for military history to become a teacher. He spent some time skipping around colleges – a year here, a year there – before realizing that the traditional college atmosphere wasn’t the right fit for him.

Growing up, the trades were never an option presented to Mike, but he said that if they were he still probably wouldn’t have gone down that path. He had his eyes set on attending a four-year college. Since completing his program at Rosedale Tech, Mike is very pleased with his decision to attend.

“I wish I would have done this 10 years ago,” he said.

A couple of Mike’s favorite aspects of Rosedale Tech were completing a lot of hands-on work throughout the program as well as having two instructors with so much experience in the field. He also enjoyed the laid back atmosphere and flexibility the evening program offers its students, who typically are working during the day, or are raising a family, like in Mike’s case.

Since graduating in March 2017, Mike plans to find an electrical maintenance second shift position so that he is able to continue raising his sons.

Rosedale Tech in the Community

On April 17, members of Rosedale Tech’s REV (Rosedale Enrichment Volunteers) Squad spent the day volunteering at Animal Friends, located on Camp Horne Road in Pittsburgh, PA. Animal Friends is a non-profit companion animal resource center serving the needs of pets and people for more than 70 years. For more information about the organization, visit www.thinkingoutsidethecage.org.

Electrical Entrepreneur Elie Berard is ‘Keeping You in the Light’

When electrical student Elie Berard graduates from Rosedale Tech in May, he will be happily employed by one of the toughest bosses around – himself. When Elie started in Rosedale Tech’s electrical technology program in February 2016, he knew that he wanted to start his own business. In October 2016, just seven months prior to graduating, he opened his own business, EB Electric LLC.

EB Electric offers a number of residential services, like replacing basic plugs and switches, services, intercom systems and multimedia stations. Another service Elie is able to offer a client is drywall and plaster repair if any destruction is needed when doing electrical work. This is a skill he learned in a previous construction job.

One of the hardest things Elie had to go through when starting his business is finding an available name. Also, realizing the financials needed for initial up-front costs, for things like insurance, were troublesome. Other costs were able to be prolonged.

Since starting his business (while still attending school), he was able to completely rewire four residential houses from electrical panel all the way through the house, four complete residential fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Elie said that the training he has received at Rosedale Tech has helped him fully understand the skills needed to work in the electrical field. Also having skilled instructors in both business classes and electrical classes willing to offer their support and knowledge helped guide him to where he is now.

For those Rosedale Tech students interested in entrepreneurship, Elie recommends one thing – to pay attention.

“You need to pay attention to everything going on in all of your classes, both the general education courses as well as your core classes. All of the material you cover at Rosedale Tech is important,” said Elie. “Also, ask your instructors for guidance. Most of them have owned their own businesses and have good insight on things you should pay attention to.”

Since starting his business, Elie has already serviced 15 residential homes. While he does most of the work himself along with a part-time employee, he hopes to hire two new employees, 1 part-time and 1 full-time, by September. In the next five years, he hopes to have four electricians working for him along with their helpers.

When Elie graduates in May, he’s excited to celebrate his accomplishment of earning an AST in Electrical Technology. At the age of 50, this will be his first degree earned, one of the first degrees earned in his family.

If you are in need of residential electrical work, please contact EB Electric LLC at (412) 458-5651 or email Elie at EB_Electric_llc@hotmail.com.
### Student Name | Program | Employer
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Matthew Gooch, Jr. | Auto | Pep Boys Automotive
Justin Lee | Auto | Meineke
Brandy Snell | Auto | Eaton Corporation
Andrew Gilhooley | Diesel | BeeMac Trucking
Steven Sennich | Diesel | Schneider
Jeffrey Coyle | HVAC | Trigate Mechanical
Paul Campbell | Diesel, Auto | A+ Campbell's Towing Auto Repair
James Rees, Jr. | Auto | Marion Hill Auto Sales
Clint Chapple | Diesel | Parking Lot Painting Company
James Osick, Jr. | Electrical | TradeSource
Eric Price | Electrical | O'Neal Manufacturing Services
Ian Love | Welding | Boilemakers Local 154
Kevin Garofalo | CDL | Zimmor Bomet Apex Surgical
Simone Agare | CDL | FGT Trucking, Inc.
William Delval, Jr. | CDL | Castrol Gas Services
D'Andrea Cobb, Jr. | Diesel | BeeMac Trucking
Eric Silman | CDL | Butler Gas Products Company
Geoffrey Dantangelo | Auto | NAPA Auto Genuine Parts
William Harold | Auto | California Automotive
Joshua DeNardo | Diesel | Vrabel Plumbing Company
Chaz Lewis | Diesel | Loves Home Improvement
Nathaniel Spindler | Diesel | NAPA Auto Parts - Fayette Parts Service
Eric Nelson | Diesel | Nelson's Transmission Service
Matthew Pugh | Electrical | Omega Electric
John Clark | Electrical | Omni Electric Inc
Bryan Davis | CDL | Liberty USA - A Division of Eby-Brown
Nathaniel Greenlee | CDL | Beemac Trucking
Farkhod Ishmukhamedov | CDL | Cadence Premier Logistics
Sherisa Johnson | CDL | Schneider
Michael Lashnak | CDL | BeeMac Trucking
Ryan Baux | Auto | #1 Cochran Infinitty South Hills
Jessica Foringer | Auto | Baierl Honda
Dylan Keir | Auto | #1 Cochran Volkswagen
Nicholas Raith | Auto | Insight Pipe Contracting
Paul Cameron | Diesel | Travel Centers of America
Gary Carroll, Jr. | Diesel | Parking Lot Painting Company
Joseph Connor | Diesel | American Bridge Company
Jason Condi | Diesel | PGT Trucking Inc.
Jason Kischner | Diesel | Fox Ford
Jarrod Ma-Adams Welch | Diesel | Economy Welding & Industrial Supply
David Menzweyer | Diesel | TransEdge Truck Centers Pittsburgh
John O'Hare | Diesel | Sofis Company Inc.
Michael Pallone | Diesel | Bartlett Tree Experts
Cody Rakowski | Diesel | Kenworth
Suleman Chowdhry | Electrical | Pittsburgh Marriott Residence Inn/ Medical Center
Carlos Harrison | Electrical | A-Tech Refrigeration & Mechanical Services
Wendell Jones | Electrical | TradeSource
Donald Swink, Jr. | Electrical | O'Neal Manufacturing Services
Zachary Shahara | HVAC | JA Sauer
Mark Walsh | HVAC | Trigate Mechanical
Timothy Williams | HVAC | A-Tech Refrigeration & Mechanical Services
Timothy Gazdich | Welding | Marcegagia
James Narvagas | Welding | Aerotek Staffing Agency
Jason Wilson | Welding | Labor Ready
Jonathan Benna | CDL | 43rd Street Concrete
Brandon Borofsky | CDL | Schneider's (25092)
Nichole Cermina | CDL | Dieri Towing
Christopher Johnson | CDL | Southbay Express, Inc.
Jerome Scherer | Auto | Colliers Service
Ali Tows, Jr. | Auto | #1 Cochran Nissan
William Fisher, Jr. | Diesel | Nick Crivelli Chevrolet
Zachary Pfeifer | Electrical | Aerotek
Joseph Wasek | CDL | Mabe Trucking Co Inc.

### Student Name | Program | Employer
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Thomas Kisel | Auto | #1 Cochran Volkswagen
Ryan Kozup | Auto | Wright Automotive Group
Randy Russell | Auto | Powersport Institute
Beverly Tomporoski | Auto | Jiffy Luber
Dante DeMatteo | Diesel | The Warehouse Rentals & Supplies - RJ Repco Inc.
Aaron Scassa | Diesel | Herzog Truck Services, LLC
Tamarah Upshaw | Diesel | Port Authority of Allegheny County
Lucas Elliott | Diesel | Gordon Food Service
Samuel Fagley | Diesel | Penske Truck Leasing Co.
Zachary Gebhart | Diesel | Youngs Energy Service
Bryan Hanks | Diesel | Bedford Ford
William Hartes | Diesel | Ryder
Justin Hazen | Diesel | Robich Automotive Group
Tyre Imperatore | Diesel | Hill International Trucks, LLC
Nathan Jones | Diesel | Robich Automotive Group
Joshua Keppeler | Diesel | Penske
Taylor Kordich | Diesel | Al Geisler & Sons Trucking, Inc.
Bradley Roberts | Diesel | Crider Truck Leasing
Zachary Rovito | Diesel | Wayne W Sel Corporation
Dalton Weleski | Diesel | Penske
Matthew Wineman | Diesel | Wright Automotive Group
Kristopher Zoretich | Diesel | Metzler Trucking, Inc.
Patrick Gandzarski | Diesel | Metro Heating and Cooling
David Peck Jr. | HVAC | Eastern Freight Ways Inc.
Elizabeth Mastele | CDL | Cellone's Bakery
Darius Rose | CDL | PGT Trucking
Thomas Wimbush | CDL | Highland Beverage
William Fax | Electrical | Marcin's Bakery
Adam Cook | Auto | Washington Auto Mall-Honda
Robert Blumming | CDL | Gordon Food Service
Derek Betchy | Auto | Robich Automotive Group - Bentley
Austin Checchuck | Auto | Sears Holdings Corporation
Jason Gentile | Auto | family of Companies
Zakary Kubala | Auto | Wright Automotive Group
Austin Kyles | Auto | South Hills Honda
Summer Nieder | Auto | Enterprise Rent A Car (ERAC) of Sacramento
Jason Turner | Auto | Baierl Honda
Jesse Allision | Diesel | #1 Touchdown City Pre-Owned Autos
Daniel Book | Diesel | Walsh Equipment Inc.
Marc Held | Diesel | Krise Transportation
Corey Laster | Diesel | W.L. Roening, Inc.
Louis Rotunda | Diesel | Auto Systems Centers (Midas)
Tyler Slagle | Diesel | Oil Service Inc.
Bryan Syzko | Diesel | Coen Oil
Jacob Wright | Diesel | Penske Truck Leasing Co., L.P.
Joseph Aracchi | Electrical | Jupiter Aluminum
Bareere Carter | Electrical | Verizon
Jeremy Elder | Electrical | TradeSource
Matthew McMeehin | Electrical | Verizon
Seth Myers | Electrical | Schulze Electric
Zachary Riderenef | Electrical | Crystal Springs Water
Shane Bennett | Electrical | Lepel Electrical Contractor, Inc.
Dylan Schroeder | HVAC | Sun-Ray Mechanical
Jeremy Scott | Diesel | Penske Truck Leasing Co., L.P.
Scott Sheeder | Diesel | Lenzer Coach Lines
Lauren Paswell | Auto | Bailey Honda
Zayne Hansbarger | Diesel | Fyda Freightliner
James Lesntr Jr. | Diesel | All Foreign Auto Parts
James Peters III | Diesel | Gordon Food Service
Mateusz Wasilewski | HVAC | Sheetz
Dylan Kabana | Welding | WJ Beitler

### Rosedale Technical College: Reaching New Heights in the Future

Rosedale Technical College was a different place in 2010, which is why we kicked off its long-term strategic plan known as the **2020 Vision**. Throughout the past seven years, tremendous strides of change and growth have been achieved. Some of these areas include the implementation of new programs, the addition of the Ben Wilke Training Center, growth in student population, graduation rates increased, student loan default rates decreased, and so much more. One of the biggest changes occurred in 2014 when Rosedale Tech officially became a college.

The 2020 vision was focused on growth and raising the standards at Rosedale Tech. As we approach the end of the 10-year strategic plan, it’s time to embark on re-visioning Rosedale Tech. It’s time to embrace higher heights and bigger challenges.

To do this process right, we need your help! We are asking for feedback from students, graduates, employers, high schools and CTCs, CareerLinks, politicians, influencers, and all other supporters of Rosedale Technical College.

If you are interested in helping Rosedale Tech develop its strategic plan, please contact Vice President, College Development and Communications Debbie Bier at (412) 521-6200 or debbie.bier@rosedaletech.org.
Thank You to Our Donors!

**DID YOU KNOW...** Rosedale Technical College is a 501(c)3 non-profit higher education institution. What does that mean? To simply state it, profits collected from student tuition goes back into the equipment and technology students will find in the labs and classrooms, which allows for students to work on the latest technologies in the industries. While profits can’t cover everything we could possibly want to provide to our students, we oftentimes receive generous equipment and supply donations from some of the valued partners and employers that we work with. Here are some of the recent donations we have received, which in total value nearly $110,000.

- **Butler Gas Products Company:** Welding consumables to be utilized in class by our welding students.
- **Kenworth:** An engine to be utilized for training purposes in the diesel program.
- **Charlie Brown’s Airport Parking:** 3 buses and 3 vans to be utilized for training in the diesel and automotive programs.
- **Nissan:** GTR Transmission and a 2003 CVT, valuing approximately $17,000.
- **Anonymous Donor:** a 2000 Mercury Station Wagon.
- **Greentree SportsPlex:** A commercial rooftop air conditioning unit, to be used for training purposes in the HVAC program.
- **Best Hardware:** a commercial rooftop air conditioning unit, to be used for training purposes in the HVAC program.
- **Precision Manufacturing Institute (PMI):** Grinders

Thank you for your generosity!

**Rosedale Tech Fuel Station**