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**"Suffolk County Community College adds Fiat Chrysler training"**

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By:Claude Solnik May 31, 2017 0

**Suffolk County Community College** is adding training for Fiat Chrysler to its automotive technology program.

The school said students in the program can acquire a Chrysler-Fiat training certification for employment in Fiat Chrysler Automobile dealerships and elsewhere.

"We want to make sure the dealerships have the requisite training," SCCC President Shaun McKay said of the addition.

**Suffolk County Community College** offers an associates degree in Automotive Technology certified by the National Automotive Technician's Education Foundation.

"In the last three years or so, we've really revamped all of the curriculum, for not just Toyota, GM and Honda, but all of our programs," Sandra Sprows, associated dean of academic affairs, added.

David Macholz, automotive academic chair at the school, said "this just expands" SCCC's automotive program.

Dealers described the addition as much needed, as the school becomes the only such training program for Fiat Chrysler in the region.

"What we're hoping for is because of the shortage of technicians out here, that we can grow our own and get some local people back into the industry," said Gary Burke, general sales manager for Brown's Jeep, Chrysler, Dodge.

Other dealers said it's difficult to get qualified personnel for their industry, making this program all the more important.

"Our biggest asset is our employees," Bill Ballan, general manager for Smith Haven Auto Group, said. "And they're very hard to find right now."

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