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NYC AUTOMOTIVE INTERNS BRING HOME STATE TITLE

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In our March newsletter, we highlighted NYPD Fleet Services for their participation as judges in the Automotive Skills USA Regional Competition.

Two of our very own automotive interns went on to challenge at the state level and took home first prize! Vernon Surujbali and Navin Indardeo were given a battery of tests through a series of workstations to gauge their automotive knowledge. Challenges ranged in complexity from an engine failure to an inoperative exterior light. Their task was to properly diagnose the issues and fill out a corresponding work order to address the repairs. Vernon and Navin's comprehensive knowledge of automotive technology ranked number one amongst their New York State peers.

Vernon and Navin are automotive education students and seniors at Thomas Edison High School in Queens. Their daily curriculum includes various levels of automotive technology from garage safety to in-depth computer diagnostics. They also enjoy hands-on training from NYC. Navin participated in the Summer 2013 Automotive Internship Program at NYPD Shop 3 in Brooklyn, learning alongside NYPD's skilled automotive technicians. Vernon participated in the NYPD Explorer program and is currently an NYPD Explorer Sergeant with the 103 Precinct.

Vernon and Navin are examples of the great talent and promise shown by our intern team. Agencies including NYPD, FDNY, DPR, DSNY, and DCAS are getting ready now to welcome a new intern class for the Summer of 2014. Congratulations and great job.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: DOT BARRIER MOVER

MAHANTH S. JOISHY



New York City operates some vehicle models in the thousands including over 2,600 Toyota Priuses. Other equipment pieces are much more rare, especially DOT's barrier mover, the only one of its kind citywide. This large and extraordinary machine is a 2003 Barrier Systems BMT model and can move thousand pound concrete barriers in rapid succession. Currently the unit is being detailed to the Midtown Tunnel in order to open and close a two-mile stretch of Eastbound express lane as needed.

Only a small group at DOT have the training and expertise to operate and maintain this unit, which is also known as "the snake" or "zipper truck." The machine picks up heavy barriers one after another in one lane and drops them in another at a remarkable speed through an S-shaped channel in the undercarriage. All the while the truck drives along at 5 m.p.h. The barrier mover is the safest, easiest, and most precise way to get the job done while causing the least disruption to traffic.

The automotive staff at DOT's Harper Street in Queens take care of the \$850,000 barrier machine which is heavily used and has no backup. One mechanic with extensive experience on the barrier mover is Anthony Cammarata a.k.a. "the Professor" who has worked on every type of DOT heavy equipment. Anthony has been a mechanic with DOT since 1987 when he started out in the Bronx. As DOT Chief Ed Geniti puts it, "if it's broke, Tony will fix it." The City boasts an extraordinary diversity of equipment. Certainly, DOT's barrier machine has a claim to the most unique. Thanks to the DOT team for letting us share this story.