

It's Harley Time!

Green Mountain Harley-Davidson (GMHD) co-owners David and Debby Pearson have formed a partnership with Community High School of Vermont (CHSVT), an independent, fully accredited school operated by the Vermont Department of Corrections. GMHD factory-certified technicians team up with licensed teachers from CHSVT and high school students from the greater Burlington and Saint Albans communities to work on motorcycles, job skills, and high school diplomas, all at the same time.

With support from the Vermont Department of Labor, the Harley Time course offering is now in its third year of existence. High student interest has led to its expansion to include stu-

dents from four different campuses of CHSVT, including two correctional facilities. The program offers an opportunity for students to build a host of job skills besides familiarity with motorcycle mechanics. Students also gain confidence and experience for a variety of transitions, including from incarceration to the community and from high school to post-secondary employment or education.

On one Monday in January, the Pearson's devoted their monthly management team training to setting up mock job interviews with students. "We see these young adults as the future of Vermont and want to give them every opportunity to succeed. Learning how to craft and present

their job skills to prospective employers allows them the first step through the door," stated David Pearson. Students focused on resume and interview skills that will provide them the confidence to handle difficult questions posed by managers and owners of businesses.

CHSVT vocational education Chief Dana Lesperance commented, "It's a great story and a very good program. These students live and work in our communities, and the more opportunities and options we can provide, the better they will fit in and contribute." What you might not see driving past 157 Pearl is that Green Mountain Harley-Davidson is a rich part of building futures in the community.

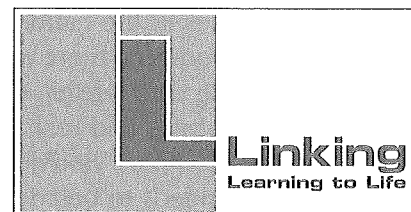
Linking Learning to Life

How did you get to where you are today? Who gave you your first break? Who supported an opportunity and opened a door you never knew existed? Creating and fostering these opportunities is what Linking Learning to Life is all about. This article will describe how as a business, you can be a part of a young person's first break and the incredible benefits that come from it.

TIPS (Training Interns and Partnering for Success) is an academic internship program happening throughout the state. Over the past 3.5 years, more than 500 Vermont high school students have spent forty hours contributing to a local business through an intentionally planned and assessed internship experience. Internship placements range in all career fields from physical therapy and auto customization to nursing and financial consulting

to veterinary science. Businesses report that interns have helped them generate new ideas and create new process improvements. While students explain that the internship helps them gain confidence, better understand what they do and don't want to do for a career, and learn time management skills.

In order to be placed at an internship site, students must complete 20 hours (14 classes) of skill preparation. They discover their career related strengths and interests, practice interviewing, create resumes and cover letters and most importantly, meet local business leaders to hear first hand what they are looking for when they hire people. The intention of the course is to ensure that students are prepared to be successful at their internships - that they can ask proper questions, show up on time and ready, display initiative, motivation, a



Prepare. Connect. Achieve.

willingness to learn and contribute to the business. Internships can only be successful when both parties - the student and the business - are benefiting.

Hosting an intern is only one way to be a part of the TIPS program. If you want to be a part of career education, though your business is unable to have an intern for 40 hours, you could host a class tour of your business, come visit the class, or participate in any other of LLL's numerous career preparation programs. This information can be found at www.LLLvt.org.