



## Perris News

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### Auto Tech Training Center Opens in Perris

Two years ago, the abandoned and blighted building on Fourth Street in Perris looked like a prime candidate for the wrecking ball.

But Mayor Daryl Busch and the City Council had other ideas. Working with the Perris Union High School District, Mount San Jacinto College and the private businesses, Honda America and Resurrection Kustoms, the City renovated the former police storage facility and converted into an auto repair laboratory.

With representatives of all the partners present, Mayor Busch on Thursday cut the ribbon on the new Perris Technology Center, a venue he said will provide real-world job experience to students interested in becoming automotive technicians. Students will learn basic automotive repair—changing oil, changing and rotating tires, checking belts and hoses for wear and fluid levels—along with repairing dings and dents caused from collisions and driving mishaps.

"This is another great example of the City of Perris participating in a joint venture for the benefit of our residents," Busch said. "This will provide another venue of education for our community. It will provide training for life skills that will prove useful."

The City's Redevelopment Agency spent about \$550,000 to completely gut and renovate the technology center. Rehab work included new plumbing, electrical wiring, ceiling and roof, building a classroom and upgrading the parking lot. Instructors from Honda and Mount San Jacinto College will teach the auto-repair classes. Resurrection Kustoms representatives will hold auto body-repair classes.

"We believe we are going to get a great return on our investment," Busch said. "It took a lot of hard work to bring this to fruition and this day has been a long time coming. This center will serve a lot of people. Perris residents will see what a good project it is."

Mayor Pro-Tem Rita Rogers called the opening of the technology center "another great coup for the City of Perris."

"Not all youth excel academically and this center provides jobs skills for people who may not want to go to a four-year college," Rogers said. "This provides another option in this rough economy. These jobs skills are permanent. No one can take them away."

State Assemblyman Brian Nestande, R-Palm Desert, praised Perris for partnering with other public entities and private businesses. He said such partnerships are the way to solve problems, especially when economic conditions lag.

"Career technical education is the path to success for many people," Nestande said.

Nestande, who represents Perris in the Assembly, presented certificates to the City of Perris and its education partners.

Roger Schultz, superintendent of the Mount San Jacinto College District, said public-private partnerships will become increasingly important as California battles tight budgets in the future. He praised Perris and its partners for their "vision, passion, energy and enthusiasm" in converting the former law enforcement site into an education center.

"It will provide relevant and immediate employment skills," Schultz said.

Jonathan Greenberg, superintendent of the Perris Union High School District, remembered the first time he looked at the abandoned building before renovations began. He did not think it possible to convert the facility into a state-of-the-art learning center.

"I had my doubts," he said. "It is important to remember vocational education like auto shop, wood shop and metal shop. Perris Union High School District is proud to be part of this new and exciting Perris Technology Center."

Mount San Jacinto College District Trustee Ann Motte praised Perris officials for having the vision to turn a "blighted, dilapidated building" into a learning site that will attract high-school, college and adult students intent on bettering their lives.

"The Mayor and the City of Perris had the vision to put this partnership together for students," Motte said. "It is great to be a part of that."



Perris mayor Daryl Busch and Mount San Jacinto College District Trustee Ann Motte cut the ribbon to the new center. Mayor Pro-Tem Rita Rogers stands to Mayor Busch's left.



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch addresses the audience gathered at the ribbon-cutting for the Perris Technology Center: "We are going to get a great return for our investment."



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch accepts a certificate from State Assemblyman Brian Nestande.



Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Rita Rogers stands at attention during the singing of the National Anthem.