

## Testimonials from teachers and trainers



### **Joe Mendola, instructor, Gaither High School.**

#### **Can you tell us about your background, how long you have been a teacher, and what it is you want to achieve as a teacher?**

I have been a teacher for 15 years. I want to achieve for my students to be the best master diagnostic & drivability technicians possible. So every other technician wants to be them & every shop / dealership wants them. I also want doctors, lawyers & Indian chiefs requesting to be there friends, because they are the best of the best.

#### **Can you tell us about the automotive teaching program at your school?**

Gaither High school has the Number 1, High school automotive technology training program, in Hillsborough Co. Possibly this side of the Mason Dixion line.

#### **How have you used Argo for your class?**

I have used Argo since August 2013. Have you replaced any learning materials or do you blend Argo with existing learning materials? I replaced CDX as primary software with Argo, and I blend the best animations of CDX into some of my lessons. But mainly I am using Argo as my best technology along with my two smart boards.

#### **Is there anything you could not do before, that you now can with Argo?**

I can have 30 students see me test the simulator, that in the past only ten could see in a shop setting. Then that leads 20 of students getting off task because of a shop setting.

#### **While using Argo what has pleasantly surprised you?**

My students love demonstrating it on the smart board in front of others. They don't want to make a mistake or be embarrassed so they try harder, and the other

students watch close so when it's their turn they won't make a mistake.

**How has Argo helped you in your teaching?**

Well on the 4th of January 2014 I had a formal evaluation by my principal, I had forgotten that I scheduled it way back in February, because I have been so busy getting a NATEF accreditation. So the best part is I was reminded at 7am April 1. That I had 2 hours to get ready for an intense evaluation (impossible to do right). So I just went ahead and said, let's do our regular Argo lesson the way it was on the simulator. The principal came in and sat down, students took turns at the diagnosis and all worked together. Everyone was engaged fully on what was going on. The principal also with eyes glued to the demonstration. The students writing fuel pressure values, Ohms, & voltage readings, on a teacher made work sheet. Needless to say 50 minutes went quick. The Volvo was once again running, my evaluation was off the top of the charts. Then the principal ask me to speak at the faculty meeting, after he told the faculty about what he observed, and I did do some bragging in front of 200 colleagues. Thanks to Argo.

**What has been the response of your students?**

On the day of my NATEF evaluation, my supervisor from CATE, watched my classes. He asked if them if they prefer brand X software or Argo. All of the students replied Argo.

**How would you advise other teachers who are considering using Argo?**

Well they can talk to my principal or advisory committee, I demonstrate it all the time. (I Brag about all of my technology) it raises the bar for other teachers get the out of there comport zone.

**Can you share a specific case or experience with using Argo that would help other teachers to get the most out of it?**

Teaching electrical diagnosis is so much easier with Argo then conventional methods, because only 5 or 6 students can see over your shoulder. Using a lap top or PC with a projector is the ultimate teaching method & tool.

**Would you recommend Argo to fellow teachers?**

Well they can be Flintstone's High school auto shop, or maybe Danny & Thunderbird's in the movie Grease. Unless they upgrade their technology, & software with Argo they are cave men.