

## PREPARING TEXAS FOR THE FUTURE — ONE SKILLED JOB AT A TIME.



Austin Stashi, high school senior  
shown working at Bruckner Truck Sales.

Associated Industries of Texas is a Texas non-profit trade association built to represent industry employers working in collaboration with vocational and trade schools, government agencies, industry associations, suppliers, and other stakeholders committed to promoting and producing a new generation of skilled laborers to power the Texas workforce.

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As a high school senior at Randall High School in Amarillo, Texas, **Austin Stashi** had options. One of those options was to attend a traditional four-year university to pursue an engineering degree. Already involved in National Guard, a future in the military was a viable option as well. He even considered being in law enforcement or being an EMT. But it was his passion for tinkering with engines that ultimately led him to Bruckner's in his hometown.



**Bruckner Truck Sales** has been in business since 1932 and is one of the largest and oldest Mack and Volvo truck dealerships in the U.S. With 34 locations through Texas and six other states, family-owned Bruckner's spends millions of dollars annually to hire and train diesel technicians and prides itself on promoting most of its managers internally.

"I had a family friend who had worked at Bruckner's for years and he loved it there," Stashi says. "When I had the chance to go sit down with the leadership at the Amarillo location, I knew it was going to be a good fit. I got a start cleaning everything from tools to floors and now I've started building my own tool inventory and I am looking forward to advancing through the training program to become a certified diesel technician. I'm excited to go to work. I have a real passion for it. And I get to do it now."

A career in a technical field was not Austin's first thought. But it did become his first choice. "Sure, originally the plan was to attend a four-year school and get a typical degree of some kind," he says. But by the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I really started to think about what I might want to do with my life. I had a lot of drive early. Most of my friends will wind up at a university. That's what we're all taught is the normal route to go. But fortunately, I was exposed in high school to the opportunities that come with a career in a skilled technical field and I have the opportunity to make a great living in a field I love. That's sort of the ultimate success story. Do what we love doing and get paid well for it."

"We always have one to three High School students working part time at the Amarillo dealership, Says Johnny Puckett, GM of Brucker's location in Amarillo. "Some of the students work just during the summer months, some work after school and thru the summer. We have several Technicians, Parts associates and management staff that started their career at Bruckner's as a high school student working part time. This has worked very well for Bruckner's to grow and train the kind of team we want to keep building. Austin has a great attitude, strong work ethic, and willingness to learn. Austin has a desire to become a diesel technician but, was unsure how he could achieve his goal. He was considering going into the military for diesel tech training. After our interview, he felt like Bruckner's was the best career path for him. He was very excited about coming to work for Bruckner's. Austin's attitude and eagerness to learn the business made him a great candidate for our business."

**Austin Stashi is a prime example of how a skilled trades career can be a great fit for anyone looking for a well-paying, highly-satisfying career in a high-demand industry.**