



Arinda Goldsberry started the Diesel Technician Program in August 2007 and has constantly amazed us with his desire to learn everything the program has to offer. From the beginning, he told us he wanted to work in a mechanical field where he knew he would always have a job. I assured him that if he would listen, follow instructions and commit himself to the curriculum and NATEF tasks we teach, he would be prepared for a career with excellent pay, benefits, and stability.

Arinda's life has not always been easy. He was born in Easton, PA where he lived the first 12 years of his life. He then moved to Alberta, VA and lives with his aunt, Bernice Coleman, and brother, Landry, who also attends the diesel program. Arinda says that his aunt is his greatest inspiration. She provides love, meals and much-needed money to pay for gas.

One of Arinda's best attributes is his thirst for knowledge. He admits, though, that he didn't apply himself in school because he was always bored. After dropping out of high school, he attended SVCC Middle College during the fall of 2005 to earn his GED. Buffy Allgood, a teacher there, took an interest in him and helped keep him focused on the goals that would improve his life. Arinda says she taught him that as long as his desire to learn is stronger than any other impulse, he will always be successful. Buffy suggested that he consider the Diesel Tech Program after finding that he enjoyed working on vehicles.

Arinda will graduate from the Diesel Technician Program on the 1st of May near the top of his class. We found that he enjoys being constantly challenged and kept busy working with his hands which eliminates the boredom! He is also excellent in vehicle electrical and electronics diagnostics.

I firmly believe that if Arinda continues putting forth the effort he has during this 36-week program, he will either own a business or be an excellent shop foreman.

Harlan Wrenn
Coordinator, Diesel Technician Program