

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Universal Technical Institute helps Inland Empire Students Realize NASCAR Dreams

FONTANA, CA—Capitalizing on its unique partnership with NASCAR, Universal Technical Institute (UTI), Rancho Cucamonga will welcome one of its students back to the Inland Empire for this weekend's West Coast premier of NASCAR at the Auto Club 500. Carlos Plaza completed the first phase of his technical schooling at the Rancho Cucamonga campus of UTI and continued on to the NASCAR Technical Institute in Race City, USA (Moorseville, NC). Upon completion of his education he realized his life-long dream and was offered a coveted position with Penske Racing Team.

"It's great to see Carlos return home to the Inland Empire during this weekend's Auto Club 500," said Robert Johnson, Executive Director, California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools. "Our top priority is to educate students and place them in vocations so that they can realize their dreams. Carlos is a prime example of a student who achieved his dream through hard work and dedication. UTI's automotive training and unique partnership with NASCAR allowed Carlos to go straight from graduation to his position with Penske racing."

Carlos' dream of a career with NASCAR began as a child in Southern California when he was given a Terry Labonte model toy. He began his education at UTI's Rancho Cucamonga campus and after catching the eye of instructors with his standout performance, went on to the NASCAR Technical Institute.

UTI has partnered with NASCAR to establish the first NASCAR Technical Institute in Moorseville, NC. Upon completion of UTI's automotive program students will have gained the knowledge and skills to give them a head start at the NASCAR Technical Institute, where they may be recommended for job placement within the NASCAR organization.

While training to become a NASCAR mechanic Carlos worked full-time at a local Target store in order to independently support his living and schooling expenses. With the assistance of UTI's student support services he was able to secure affordable housing within weeks of arriving at school. Despite working and going to school full time, Carlos graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was a top pick for NASCAR employment.

UTI is one of thousands of private post-secondary schools in California that are focused on educating students and placing them in high-quality jobs upon graduation. UTI, along with many other schools, is a member of the California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools.

“We are thrilled with UTI’s partnership with NASCAR and strong record of placing students in careers immediately after graduation,” added Johnson. “UTI is one of thousands of schools that are providing high-quality education and job opportunities to hundreds of thousands of students in California. Carlos’ story is inspiring and just one of many stories we hear from our members each day.”

About UTI:

Universal Technical Institute (UTI) is the country's premier provider of technician training for students seeking a rewarding career in the automotive, diesel, collision repair, motorcycle, and marine industries. UTI not only provides a quality education, but our partnerships with today's leading manufacturers such as BMW, Ford, International, Honda, Nissan and Volvo, offer an unmatched number of training and career opportunities for our students. More information on UTI can be found at <http://www.UTI.com>.

About CAPPs:

The California Association of Private Postsecondary Schools (CAPPs) is the only California State Association representing the many diverse kinds of Private Postsecondary Schools in California. CAPPs has a membership of over three hundred institutions including for-profit, non-profit, religious exempt and registered. These schools and colleges are Nationally or Regionally accredited or approved-only. CAPPs mission is to ensure that the needs of the entire sector - from small registered “mom and pop” schools to large publicly traded institutions - are met from an educational, policy and business perspective. Since 1985 CAPPs has worked with California Governors, the State Legislature, other elected officials and numerous regulatory agencies that provide oversight to the sector. CAPPs offers strong member services in professional development as well as business and educational advice. More information on CAPPs can be found at <http://www.cappsonline.org>.