

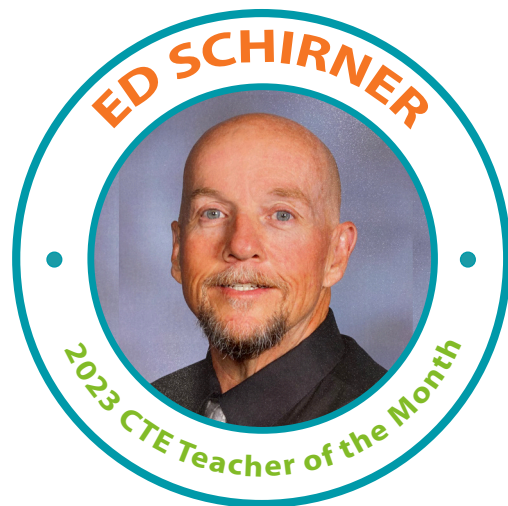
ED SCHIRNER is recognized as one of the best Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers in the state of Utah.

SEPTEMBER 2023 CTE TEACHER OF THE MONTH

SCHOOL: Davis High School | Davis School District

AUTOMOTIVE TEACHER: Automotive Career Pathway

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION: Ed Schirner has made a great impact on those around him with his passion for students and industry preparation. His classroom and skills are exemplary of what it means to be CTE.



GET TO KNOW ED SCHIRNER

BACKGROUND: Ed grew up around the automotive industry in Vernal, Utah. As a teenager he worked as a gas station attendant pumping gas and performing oil changes. Several years later, Ed landed a job with Big-O Tires where he built a successful career for the next fifteen years.

EDUCATION: While working at Big-O Tires, Ed pursued a degree from Weber State University (WSU) in Automotive Technology.

AUTOMOTIVE TEACHER: While attending WSU, Ed was presented with the opportunity to teach automotive repair courses for Davis School District. In 2001, Ed started at Clearfield High School in what he believed was a temporary career steppingstone that would help him pay for his education and later further him in his pursuit of his automotive career goals. Twenty-three years later, Ed never left teaching.

STUDENT SUCCESS: Ed has a passion for teaching! He chose to stay in education to provide service to his community through educating students. He enjoys seeing students succeed, develop a work ethic and responsibility, and light up when they discover a passion they want to pursue in their lives after high school.

CLASSROOM: Stepping into Ed's classroom and automotive shop it is easy to see how the environment exemplifies and mirrors his passion for his students. The shop is painted, pristinely organized, and arranged to mirror that of what would be found in a typical industry environment. Every student has an immersive experience in which they have the opportunity to see what an automotive career would truly feel like because of the environment and experience that Ed provides to them.

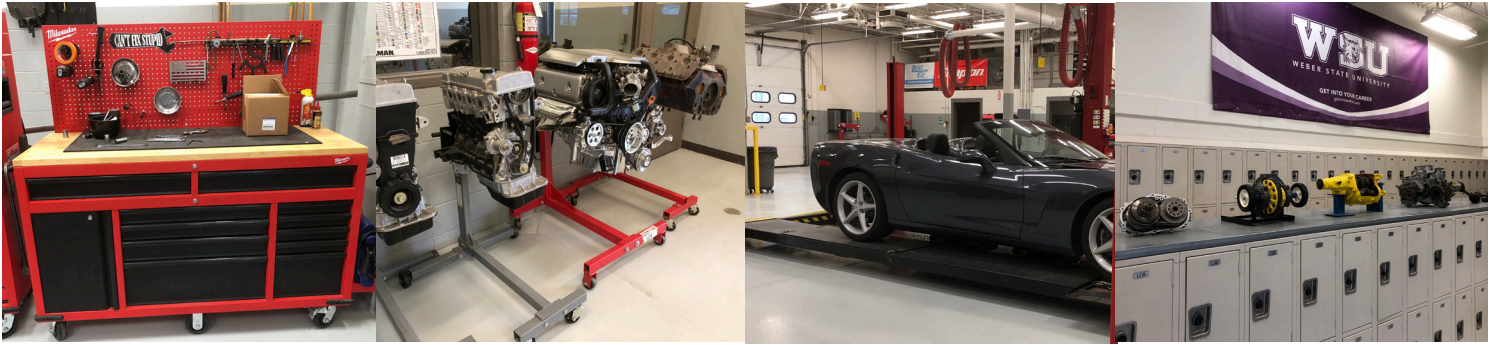


"Ed runs an amazing automotive program . . . All students feel welcome in his courses and learn at high levels."

Brian Hunt
CTE Director, Davis School District

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One would never know that this was indeed a classroom and not a professional automotive repair facility that would be found at your local dealership. Within this environment, students are treated and trained as if they are already in the industry. Believing that automotive theory and hands-on work experience both have a place in the learning process.

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Ed takes his students to numerous auto competitions. Through these competitions his students have exposure to various experiences and truly see how much they know about automotive. He goes to many industries and various garages to let students experience things they will not get in a classroom. Students at Davis High in the automotive classes are well prepared for a job in the [automotive] industry due to Ed. His passion for cars has created a passion in each of them.

Jill Hess
Concurrent Enrollment and Education & Training Specialist
Davis High School

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Students who come out of Ed's program and into WSU are driven, knowledgeable, reliable, skilled, hard-working, hungry to learn, and passionate about what they do. I'm always excited when our department receives a student coming from Ed's classroom, because we know they will be high quality students.

Jessica Slater
Department Chair, Weber State University
Automotive Technology

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Mr. Schirner does everything that an educator today is asked to do. He provides knowledge and skills applicable to students in their real life setting and reaches everyone from the student who wants to learn basic car ownership to the student who wants to turn this into a [career]. Ed teaches by example. Without even knowing it, students first learn to take care of their materials and tools and keep a clean and organized workspace. From there, he meets the student where they are. There is no question that students will master the intended curriculum by the time the course ends. The trick comes in what to do with the students who arrive already knowing that curriculum; Mr. Schirner naturally differentiates instruction to ensure each student is personally invested and learning something new every day.

Mr. Schirner is a natural teacher. He doesn't take tools out of a student's hand to do it for them. He works alongside them and guides them through the necessary steps to complete the task. In a work-based setting, the automotive industry requires collaboration and coordination. Ed provides that in the classroom and in the competitions the students enter. One of the more impressive aspects of the program is the variety of vehicles the students learn on. From a simple six-cylinder engine to a modern electric vehicle, students emerge from this program with a wide array of industry-relevant practical knowledge. Ed takes the students beyond mechanics to include the business side of the automotive industry as well. Students who participate in this program have the opportunity to compete, earn certifications, and broaden their skill set into the aspect of the industry that most appeals to them.

As incredible as the program is, students would not gravitate to it but for the charismatic personality of Mr. Schirner. Some students are very intimidated by the course, but Mr. Schirner makes the students feel welcome and provides opportunities for them to experience success. He is keenly aware of when to step in and assist a struggling learner and when to stand by and provide moral support. The classroom area of the auto shop is a respectful and collaborative environment; the lab area is a cacophony of enthusiasm and hard work.

Lori Hawthorne
Davis High School Principal

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