

Sept 1, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I can't think of a more deserving person and professional to be nominated for ASE Technician of the year than Jake Sorensen. He exemplifies a winning desire to learn and get better each day, and "WILL NEVER" give up, I mean NEVER!

I have been fortunate enough to get to know Jake both as a co-worker, and friend. I'm not sure I have met anyone who takes more pride in the work they do "everyday," and also has the desire to constantly learn and improve his Automotive skills. Jake has immersed himself into a profession he believes he can improve and commit his time to help those who show the same interest. As an owner who knows the challenges of finding good employees, Jake exemplifies the type of employee we wish we could all clone.

Over the last couple of years, Jake and I have worked closely to create and implement a new Apprentice Program. We both felt the need and have been held hostage to less business growth and substandard work with no pool of Technicians to pull from. We started 2 ½ years ago building a program and working with local Government and Schools to see what the roadblocks were going to be? There were too many obstacles to list, from the time it was going to take, the costs of allowing our main Technician to teach and hearing educators and local government tell us they didn't know the income potential justified their time? In a very short time, I witnessed Jake transform himself into a professional lobbyist for our trade and become comfortable talking to Educators, Business Owners and Government Officials about the Automotive Trade. During that time, Jake created an Apprentice Technician workbook/road map that was approved by the United States Department of Labor. Apprentice graduates would earn a Government Automotive Trade Certificate, as well as 4 ASE Certificates. This path has been one of the most exciting rewarding journeys in my professional career. Watching and learning from Jake has opened my eyes and made me a believer that there are people who care and are passionate about what they do and want the opportunity to give back. Jake knows the importance of learning and knows that the time spent studying, attending classes makes him a better Technician and teacher within the trade. Jake is 6 months away from receiving his "World Class-ASE Certification."

As a person outside of the workplace, he stays just as busy as he does with his worklife. He is married with two daughters and spends as much time as he can with them. Whether it's after work or on the weekends, Jake is camping, hiking, boating, fishing or hunting with his family. I know how hard the work and grind is everyday for Jake and watching him give the time and effort to his family, and then start the work week energized and ready to go is impressive to say the least!

I feel very fortunate to have Jake on our team and know he is making positive impressions on new and upcoming Apprentice Technicians everyday. Jake will continue to learn and refine the Apprentice Program he has worked so hard to formulate. He will always be someone I respect and admire and can't wait to see what the next 10 years will bring.

Pete McNeil

McNeils NAPA Auto Care