Summary of the November 5, 2026 **Auto and Diesel Advisory Board** meeting:

## Key Discussion Points & Takeaways

- **Attendees**
  - Scott Brock, RTCC
  - Toni Sferlazza, RTCC
  - Mike Lamson, Milton CAT
  - Ashley Osgood, Hunter Truck
  - Greg Pierce, ATG
  - Craig Wolosinski, PAHCC
  - Tyler Wittemore,
  - Tim Parker, Royalton Tools
  - Gavynn Thressher, Alumni, Hunter trucks Technician
  - Bridgett Wilbur, Alumni
- **Program Overview & Curriculum:**
  - **Automotive:** Tony Sferlazza highlighted a focus on shop safety, professionalism, and hard skills assessment using *Electude* (interactive online software). Students earn up to 9 ASE certifications and work with industry-standard equipment like an on-car brake lathe (*Pro-Cut*).
  - **Diesel:** Scott Brock outlined key goals including safety, OSHA 10, SP2 certifications, and entry-level ASE Medium/Heavy Duty certificates. He noted challenges with student reading levels and textbook readability (*CDX*), aiming for better diagnostic tools.
- **Workforce Demand & Student Preparation:**
  - Board members emphasized severe regional and national technician shortages in heavy truck, diesel, and fleet maintenance.
  - Industry reps stressed that students need to master foundational mechanical skills, shop cleanliness, proper tool care, and technical reading.
  - **Service Administration Skills:** There was strong agreement on the need for students to write detailed service reports, understand warranty documentation, and communicate repair stories clearly.
- **Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI):**
  - Attendees discussed incorporating AI tools (e.g., Microsoft Co-Pilot) in shop settings for **Job Hazard Analyses (JHA)** and converting basic technician notes into clear, professional service and warranty reports.
- **Industry Partnerships & Next Steps:**
  - **Training Opportunities:** Discussion covered dealer-provided training programs, such as the *Kubota Tech Prep* (provided in partnership with Champlain Valley Equipment) and ATG offers free Freightliner/Detroit diagnostic software licenses available to the school. Tyler is volunteering to come in and spend a day demonstrating HD diagnostic.
  - **Co-op & Job Shadows:** Employers expressed willingness to host students for co-ops and job shadowing (subject to background checks via work-based learning coordinator Brent Pearson).
  - **Statewide Advisory Committee:** The spring meeting will combine high school

automotive and diesel instructors across Vermont with industry representatives for a unified statewide advisory session.