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## Racing champ Steve Johnson offers tips to motorsports tech students

### Steve Johnson visited the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center on Thursday.

By *ANGIE MASON*

*Daily Record/Sunday News*

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Steve Johnson, NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle racer and two time NHRA U.S. Nationals Champion, takes a 'selfie' while visiting with students from YTI Motorcycle Technology Center Thursday. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS--JASON PLOTKIN)

York, PA -

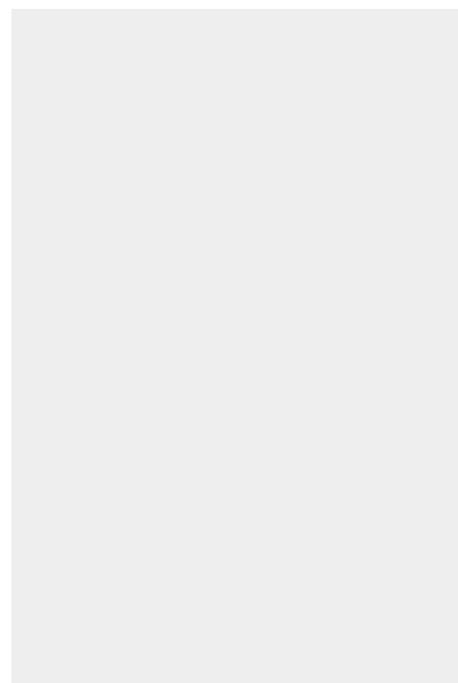
Pro Stock Motorcycle racing champion Steve Johnson starts presentations by giving students a mock interview -- 20 or 30 seconds to convince him they should beat out others seeking the motorcycle technician job he's offering.

Most freeze up, he said. Some never mention their education. But he gives them a second chance, he said, after he's shared information he's learned

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Steve Johnson speaks with students Thursday at the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center about making the best impression at job interviews. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS--JASON PLOTKIN)

from working with dealerships and those in the racing business over the years.

"In 45 minutes, they've definitely upped their game," he said.

Johnson, a National Hot Rod Association Pro Stock Motorcycle racer and team owner, stopped at the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center on Thursday. Johnson, who will be at Maple Grove Raceway in Berks County this weekend, spoke to students about ways to brand themselves in order to get the jobs they want.

"They're not just guys or girls that turn wrenches," he said, adding that they have to talk to customers and convey information. "Those skills, we feel, are more life skills. The depth that the student leaves here with is really unique."

Johnson talked to students about ways they can make themselves stand out and be the candidates that dealerships or other employers will want to hire. If everyone else shows up 10 minutes early for an interview, they should show up 30 minutes early, he said.

He let students tour his racing rig and look over his motorcycle, posed for cellphone photos and signed autographs.

Frank Sanfilippo, assistant director of motorcycle technology at the center, said Johnson's message is valuable to students.

YTI can help students on their way to getting a job, but ultimately they have to do it themselves, he said. Johnson's advice goes hand in hand with what YTI teaches in classes like career development.

It helps to have reinforcement from someone like Johnson, who was making his fourth visit to YTI, Sanfilippo said. Johnson was once a technician himself, Sanfilippo said, and now he's running a business, doing something that many in the motorsports technology program aspire to do.

Student Scott Ostertag, 39, is retired from the Air Force and started the YTI program because he's passionate about motorcycles, he said.

With the everyday routines and work, it can be hard to keep that energy and passion, he said.

"It's incredible to have somebody come and kind of refuel the passion for what we came to school to do," he said.

## Online

Learn more about Steve Johnson at [www.stevejohnsonracing.com](http://www.stevejohnsonracing.com).

Find out more about the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center at [www.yti.edu](http://www.yti.edu). Click on "motorsports technology" under the "programs" tab.

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Steve Johnson, NHRA Pro Stock Motorcycle racer and two time NHRA U.S. Nationals Champion, sports a hat from the YTI Motorcycle Technology Center Thursday during his visit with students. (DAILY RECORD/SUNDAY NEWS--JASON PLOTKIN)

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