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(Media representatives are invited to attend a press conference featuring the donation of a 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid vehicle to South Plains College. The press conference is set for 2:30 p.m. Monday in the SPC Automotive Service Technology Building, located at the corner of E.M. Barnes Drive and J.V. Morton Drive on the Levelland campus.)

SPC's Automotive Program receives Ford Escape Hybrid

LEVELLAND – South Plains College's Automotive Service Technology Program recently received a 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid donated by Ford Motors Company. The car will be unveiled during a press conference at 2:30 p.m. Monday (Oct. 20) in the SPC Automotive Service Technology Building.

The donation from Ford is in support of the Seamless Automotive Technology program. The Seamless Automotive Technology Program allows students to articulate automotive classes from Lubbock Independent School District to SPC and then on to Texas Tech University's College of Engineering toward a master of engineering degree.

Through the donation, SPC students will receive advanced training in hybrid technology. Additionally, students participating in the Seamless Automotive Technology partnership from Texas Tech, SPC Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center and LISD also will have access to the vehicle.

SPC, a non Ford ASSET School, is the only community college in the nation to receive a hybrid vehicle as a donation from Ford. Ford operates several ASSET Schools nationwide that teach Ford technology, and they are the recipients of Ford hybrid vehicles.

"In the past, all we have been able to do is discuss the technology," said Gary Ham, program coordinator and instructor of Automotive Service Technology, "Now we have the actual vehicle, and the students will get hands-on training.

"This donation will allow all of our students – the technician students and the engineering students – an excellent opportunity to train on advanced technology," Ham said. "This will give them much better preparation to enter the workforce as automotive technicians or go on to an engineering degree."

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