

## Bendix Academy Pilot Program Ready to Expand in 2025



*Christopher, A Bendix Academy student, explores household appliance mechanics by disassembling a washing machine.*

**Bendix Academy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching toolmanship through hands-on mentorship, successfully completed its pilot program and is gearing up to expand to full-time programming in 2025.** The academy's mission is to inspire innovation by equipping students with practical skills that can be applied in both everyday life and future career paths. Since its launch in 2022, the pilot program has provided students aged 12-18 with transformative opportunities to learn toolmanship under the guidance of experienced mentors. This model fosters mechanical self-reliance as well as critical thinking, discipline, and professional behavior—skills that are essential for success in any field. **“The success of our pilot has been beyond our expectations,”** said Todd Trainor, Founder and Program Director of Bendix Academy. **“The mentorship component has been key, as our mentors not only**

**teach toolmanship, but also build relationships that boost confidence and spark curiosity in our students.”**

**Due to the overwhelming demand and positive feedback, Bendix Academy is preparing for a significant expansion in 2025.** The expansion will allow for a greater number of students to participate, with more opportunities for specialized training in areas such as woodworking, mechanical repair, and engineering concepts.

As the academy looks to the future, it remains steadfast in its commitment to mentorship, practical learning, and community involvement. With continued support, Bendix Academy is poised to empower the next generation of innovators and make a lasting impact on their lives!

*Read in-depth article by clicking the QR code or visiting [bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/](https://bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/)*



# BENDIX ACADEMY

## FOUNDER'S FORUM



### Todd Trainor's Vision for Bendix Academy's Future

Todd Trainor, the visionary founder of Bendix Academy, has recently embraced the role of Program Director, taking on active leadership to guide the academy into its next phase of growth and innovation. A longtime advocate for hands-on learning, Todd is now spearheading efforts to expand

the academy's curriculum and launch new programs designed to prepare students for careers in the skilled trades.

**"There's so much excitement around where we're heading," Todd says. "We're working hard to meet our potential and looking forward to an amazing 2025!"**

Since its inception, Bendix Academy has empowered young people, starting as early as age 12, with practical skills in fields like auto mechanics, woodworking, plumbing, and electrical work. A major part of the academy's mission is to instill confidence and abilities that inspire students to explore trade and STEM professions—careers that are increasingly vital in today's economy.

**Under Todd's leadership, the academy remains dedicated to its core vision while scaling up to meet the growing demand.** One of Todd's key goals is increasing the academy's capacity to serve more students from Brighton and surrounding communities.

**Interest in the academy has grown, with more youth expressing a desire to learn about the skilled trades.** This surge in demand is a driving force behind Todd's efforts to expand the range of courses offered at Bendix Academy and create a more comprehensive learning experience.



*Click on the QR code above to read more Todd's mission and vision in his dual role as Founder and Program Director.*

[bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/foundersforum/](https://bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/foundersforum/)

## BOARDROOM BRIEF



### Welcome Ray Krom, Bendix Academy's New Board Chair!

Bendix Academy is proud to announce that Ray Krom assumed the role of Board Chair on November 12, 2024. With a distinguished career spanning over five decades in engineering and a passion for leadership and community-building, Ray brings a unique and invaluable perspective to the academy as it continues to grow and educate the next

generation of skilled tradespeople.

Ray's journey in engineering began with his summa cum laude graduation from Lawrence Technological University in 1985, earning a BS in Electrical Engineering. **Over the years, he has made significant contributions to the design and development of advanced machine control systems, software, and automated test equipment across multiple industries.** As the founder of Inotech, LLC, Ray further solidified his expertise in controls design and automation.

In addition to his technical acumen, Ray has a history of impactful leadership in extracurricular activities. A lifelong aviation and motorsports enthusiast, he held leadership roles in a Corvette club, raced competitively, and co-founded the Brighton Flying Club, where he continues to serve as treasurer. His leadership transformed the club from a small group with one aircraft to a thriving organization with multiple planes and 24 members.

As Bendix Academy's new Board Chair, Ray's blend of engineering expertise, leadership skills, and passion for community engagement will help guide the academy's mission to inspire and empower youth in the skilled trades. **Please join the Academy in welcoming Ray!**

*Click on the QR to the right to learn more about Ray's vision as Bendix Academy's Board of Directors.*



[bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/boardroombrief/](https://bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/boardroombrief/)

**WE ARE BUILDING A PLACE FOR GENERATIONS TO EXPLORE, TEACH, AND LEARN THE MECHANICAL WORLD TOGETHER, CREATING TOMORROW'S TOOLMEN TODAY.**



## MENTOR'S MEASURE

### Rodney Beckwith III at Bendix Academy: Building Confidence and Skills for the Future

At Bendix Academy, mentors are the heart of our mission to inspire confident, capable, and resourceful young people. Through hands-on learning, mentors teach technical skills while fostering problem-solving abilities and self-assurance that will serve students for life. Mentor Rodney Beckwith III exemplifies this transformative approach.

Rodney, a mentor at Bendix Academy for several years, is passionate about guiding students beyond technical know-how, preparing them for life's challenges. From carpentry and mechanics to electrical work, Rodney and his fellow mentors equip students with practical knowledge that fosters both self-reliance and career readiness. Mastering these skills is transformative, building students' confidence and instilling a sense of accomplishment. Parents often note their children's growth and maturity, thanks to this innovative toolmanship program. For Rodney, the reward is in witnessing his students' smiles and growth: **"We do it for the smiles they display as they grasp mechanical concepts they never knew existed."**

With 55+ years as a scout leader, Rodney knows the value of mentorship. He encourages others to join, emphasizing that passion for helping youth is more important than expertise. Mentors help shape the leaders of tomorrow, finding deep satisfaction in the process.

Interested in mentorship? Click the QR Code at right to read more about Rodney and learn how you too might become a Bendix Academy Mentor. [bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/mentorsmeasure/](https://bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/mentorsmeasure/)



## TOOLMEN IN TRAINING

### Christopher, a Bendix Academy student, talks about growing in skill and confidence

Bendix Academy is more than just a place to learn toolmanship—it's a space where students discover skills that shape their future careers, build self-reliance, and spark new hobbies. Christopher, a student at Bendix Academy for two years, shares how the program has fueled his passion for engineering and personal growth.

Through hands-on lessons in areas like engine mechanics, plumbing, and household electricity, Christopher has gained valuable skills and confidence. **"The hands-on experience has been a major influence on my desire to learn engineering,"** he says. Bendix Academy's diverse curriculum also includes practical skills for everyday life, such as repairing appliances, wiring outlets, or unclogging a sink, which build independence and resilience.

But toolmanship isn't just about trades or engineering—it's also about creativity. Christopher discovered woodworking as a new hobby, creating items like bowls on a wood lathe. The skills taught at Bendix Academy can open doors to a range of creative pursuits, from metalworking to refurbishing items, enabling students to express themselves and grow as individuals.

In Christopher's own words, **"Bendix Academy has helped me become a better person and gain skills to help others.** Whether pursuing a career, tackling home projects, or exploring new hobbies, Bendix Academy equips students with tools for life, fostering confidence, creativity, and a sense of purpose."

Click the QR to the right to read Christopher's own words and see more photos on his perspective on what he's learning at Bendix Academy. [bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/toolmentraining/](https://bendixacademy.org/category/newsletterposts/toolmentraining/)



# BENDIX ACADEMY

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## Bendix Academy - Inspiring Tomorrow's Toolmen Today!

We're thrilled to announce the success of our pilot program and the exciting journey ahead as we gear up for full-time operation in 2025! *Here's how you can be part of it:*

Visit [bendixacademy.org](http://bendixacademy.org) to join our mailing list for updates, including our Spring Open House

### See Bendix Academy in Action

A picture speaks a thousand words, but a visit is priceless. Email [toolmen@bendixacademy.org](mailto:toolmen@bendixacademy.org) or call us at 810-599-4035. Schedule a tour to experience the impact firsthand!



*Future student, Evan, can't wait to start wrenching!*



*Bendix Academy programs Ages 12 + up*

### Support the Next Generation

Want to make a difference? Just \$5/month can help a student discover a lifetime of skills. Every contribution counts!

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Join us in shaping Tomorrow's Toolmen Today!

