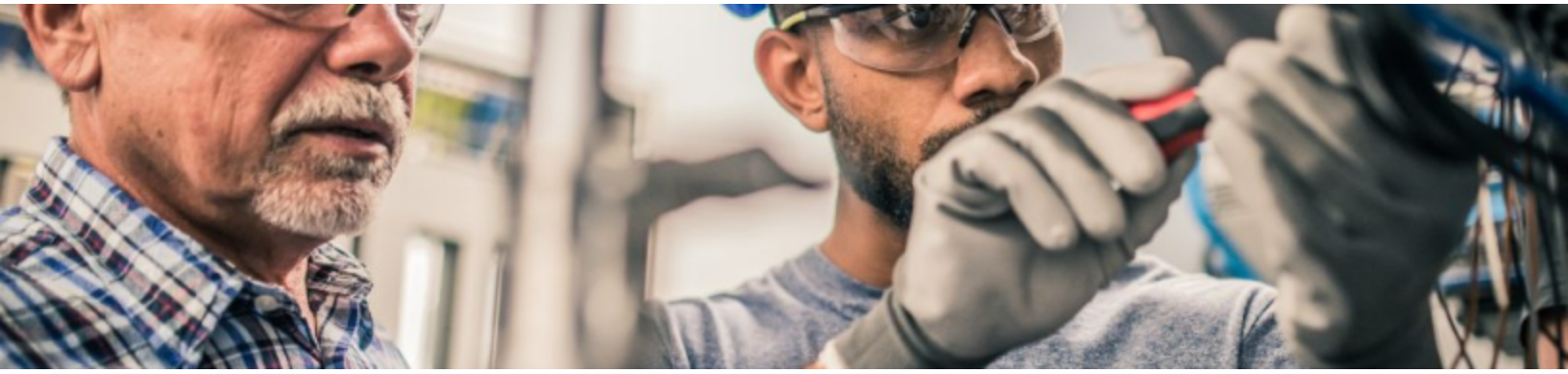


JUNE 12, 2026

Investing in Talent, Strengthening the Future

Autokiniton is a Tier 1 steel stamping supplier serving the Big Three automakers and many other companies. Like many businesses in the rural area, they face ongoing challenges with hiring and retaining employees, making it essential to provide the training needed to remain competitive.

To support workforce development, Autokiniton offers three Apprenticeship Programs: Electrical, Tool & Die, and Maintenance Technician. Current apprentices balance full-time work with attending school to complete their required technical instruction and on-the-job training hours. However, attracting new apprentices willing to commit the time and effort needed to achieve Journeyman status remains a challenge.

In discussions with Autokiniton, it was clear that they needed support for both their current apprentices and the recruitment and promotion of new ones. The company already partners with GST Michigan Works! to administer WorkKeys testing, helping identify candidates who are a strong fit for apprenticeship programs. Together, it was determined that the Going PRO Talent Fund could help offset training costs for apprentices, as well as provide support for onboarding new production employees by assisting with wages during their training period.

Through these efforts, 28 current apprentices and one newly hired apprentice were able to attend training and complete their on-the-job training hours. In addition, Autokiniton hired 10 new production workers, with wage reimbursement support provided during their training.

Investing in apprenticeship training has allowed Autokiniton to fill critical positions internally while allowing employees to earn wages as they learn valuable, lifelong skills. These programs create clear pathways for career advancement, with some employees progressing from apprentice to Journeyman and even into supervisory and management roles. The experience gained benefits both the company and its workforce.

Partnering with GST Michigan Works! and utilizing the Going PRO Talent Fund has strengthened Autokiniton’s ability to attract and retain talent. It has also enabled the company to offer employees meaningful career opportunities, competitive wages, and the chance to build their lives within the local rural community.

While balancing work, training, and family life can be challenging for employees, Autokiniton continues to strive for solutions that support both professional growth and personal well-being.