More than 150 high school students across Northcentral Wisconsin are gaining valuable job experience from local businesses.

Students like Wausau West junior Jacob Kislow joined NTC's Youth Apprenticeship Program this year.

"I always wanted to do automotive, something with that so I signed up to do the apprenticeship," says Kislow.

He works with Wausau's Department of Public Works automotive maintenance team, learning everything he can about repairing vehicles.

"I think this is a good beginning stage for them because it gets them to think about if they really want to do this for a career," says DPW fleet manager, Mark Hanson.

Mechanics say their job is very detailed. Most are only hired after they complete a lot of training. So the apprenticeship is one of the only ways for a young person to gain hands on knowledge in this field.

"I think it's a great thing actually because when you go to college you actually know a little something what they're talking about," says Kislow.

The program helps students get jobs down the road, and it also provides the DPW with an extra pair of hands.

If you own a business and are interested in training students, or for more information on the Youth Apprenticeship program, contact the YA coordinator at your local high school, or Donna Schulz, K-12 Programs Coordinator at Northcentral Technical College, at 715-803-1181 or schulzd@ntc.edu.