



February 2026

Student Connection



CUYAHOGA VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Chris Key

Garfield Heights



Chris Key, a student at Garfield Heights High School, is enrolled in CVCC's Power Equipment Technology (PET) program, where he is taught by instructor Matthew Harding. Inspired by his dad and brother, both proud blue-collar workers, Chris joined the program to build practical life skills and explore whether he'd like to follow a similar career path. With a strong interest in trucks and engines, the PET program felt like the perfect fit, especially since he has long considered becoming a mechanic. Chris has truly enjoyed his time at CVCC and is still considering a future in the mechanical field. However, he admits his "dream job" is always evolving. After graduation, he plans to attend college and is exploring interests in finance or heavy diesel.

"Mr. Harding is such a great person and always pushes us to do our best," Chris shared. "He's truly preparing us for our future and success. I love coming to school and getting hands-on experience. Our class is so extensive that even if I don't pursue this field after graduation, I'm thankful I'm learning helpful life skills."

One of Chris's favorite class experiences so far has been operating heavy equipment, including an excavator and a skid-steer loader. "I had never driven either of those before and didn't think I ever would," he said. "I can't explain the feeling of being in the driver's seat. It was just so cool to learn about the controls and actually operate the equipment." Looking ahead, Chris hopes to gain work-based learning experience at a local car shop or similar business. Outside of school, he enjoys attending car shows and spending time with friends. Keep up the great work, Chris!

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