

Craig Van Batenburg is the CEO of ACDC, a hybrid and electric car technician training company based in Worcester, Massachusetts. ACDC started in 2000, when Craig took delivery of the first hybrid sold in the USA, a Honda Insight. Prior to that, ACDC was a Certified Massachusetts Emissions training center and before that Craig started an independent Honda shop. Craig set out to make his mark in the battle against air pollution in 1977. He is still at it, over 45 years later.

ACDC's training is down-to-earth, knowledgeable, and dynamic. To stay current with changes in automotive technology, ACDC employs a master technician, Chris, to do research and solve problems on our fleet of hybrids and EVs that we use in our classes. Krista manages the office and Onix takes care social media, and many behind the scenes projects. The people at ACDC, along with Craig's decades of knowledge and leadership, make ACDC a unique training company. During the pandemic, Craig stopping paying himself to keep the staff working and gave them two pay raises. He has authored three technical books on hybrids and electric cars, one is available in Spanish. ACDC owns over 15 high voltage cars from the most popular models to current pure electric vehicles.

After the pandemic, ACDC reopened the training center and expanded into the entire building. His facility is over 4,400 sq., ft. The 85 year old building has been renovated with a heat pump, more insulation, efficient lighting, EV charging stations and other improvements that lessen our dependency on fossil fuels. Today, Massachusetts motor vehicle technicians can spend two weeks learning at ACDC. They are rebuilding their skill set to help us all transition away from fossil fuels to renewable electric powered transportation, from motorcycles to class 8 trucks. The hard working Massachusetts mechanics come to ACDC and experience their future in a most amazing way, leaving ready to diagnose, repair and maintain clean vehicles at their shops all over the Commonwealth.

ACDC is working with the Community Colleges and High Schools in our State to bring in new techs that want to be a part of a clean energy world. We offer internships for college students and more.

To contact Craig at ACDC, call 508 826 4564 or Email Craig@fixhybrid.com www.FIXHYBRID.com

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Josué Pierre is a dedicated advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the construction industry. As the leader of the Empower DEI program at IBEW 103 and NECA Greater Boston, he connects underrepresented contractors with key opportunities in general construction and renewable energy. His work focuses on breaking down barriers for underrepresented contractors and fostering meaningful partnerships that promote equity and inclusion.

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Chiderah Okoye serves as Managing Director of Transform Power Systems (TPS), a Boston-based Electrical Engineering consulting firm. TPS specializes in designing solutions for building

electrification, solar and storage implementation in commercial to utility-scale applications. Transform Power Systems was founded with the focus of advancing clean energy through deploying engineered renewable systems and developing the next generation of diverse clean energy professionals. In 2023, the organization was funded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center to launch the Transform Power Workforce Hub to drive the training and job placement of Massachusetts-based adults into clean energy careers.

Chiderah is the former Executive Director of Venly, an ecosystem platform software firm in Cambridge, MA. Venly created and maintains a Member-Oriented Management System that helps small businesses collaborate and compete more effectively as part of global value chains. As part of that work, she supported the launch of the Cambridge-based 501(c)3: the Mary S. Peake Fellowship which leads a national initiative to train college students, graduates, and veterans on digitally enabled capabilities that they in turn use to help local businesses grow.

An engineer by background, Chiderah has long been interested in how opportunities created by technology could be shared by historically disconnected communities. She previously served President and President Emeritus of the National Society of Black Engineers- Boston chapter She is the founding Co-Chair of the Affinity Leadership Consortium (ALC), an initiative that brings together diverse demographic professional organizations to advance the talent development, education, and economic outcomes of its member organizations. In recognition for her ongoing community-based efforts, Chiderah was selected by the World Economic Forum to join the Boston Hub of the Global Shapers. In February 2017 Chiderah received a 5-year appointment by then-Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker to serve on the Black Advisory Commission to inform on opportunities for inclusive economic prosperity and wellness. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA) and Resilient Coders, an initiative that upskills adults into software development jobs without the barrier of a college degree.

Chiderah lives in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston with her husband and son. She looks forward to supporting how communities, like the one that she lives and works in, can be innovators in driving sustainable and inclusive growth.