



Dave Dein recently learning about Nikola Motor Company hydrogen fuel cell and battery electric trucks.

## 6 Steps A Company Can Take To Form An Internal Next Gen Committee

Next Gen Trucking Association is helping companies form Next Gen committees internally. The Next Gen Committee focuses on awareness initiatives for future workforce needs and reaching the next generation on behalf of your company.

Highway Transport has created the first Next Gen Committee which Robin Wilson, Corporate Recruiting Manager, is leading. When asked why they formed this committee she said, "to be able to leverage the experience, talent, and contacts of committee members and Highway's internal resources," Robin replied, "We are able to explore more opportunities for educating the next generation in transportation with more boots on the ground. In addition, passion breeds passion. Every person on the committee knows that we need the next generation to be able to meet the industry needs for drivers, techs etc. We need the next generation to be able to meet Highway Transport's current and future needs."



Forming a company committee can be a useful way to gather input, generate ideas, and make decisions on important matters. Here are some steps a company can take to form an internal committee:

1. Define the purpose and scope of the committee. Determine why the committee is being formed and what its responsibilities will be.
2. Identify potential members: Consider who within the company has relevant expertise, skills, and perspective to contribute to the committee. You may want to consider including employees from different departments, levels of seniority, and backgrounds to ensure a diverse range of viewpoints.
3. Set clear expectations: Establish clear expectations for committee members, including the time commitment required, the frequency of meetings, and any specific tasks or deliverables they will be responsible for.
4. Provide training and resources: Provide necessary training or resources to help committee members perform their roles effectively.
5. Establish a process for decision-making: Determine how decisions will be made within the committee, whether through consensus, majority vote, or some other process. Ensure that decision-making processes are transparent and fair.
6. Monitor and evaluate the committee's effectiveness: Regularly monitor and evaluate the committee's performance to ensure it is meeting its objectives and making a positive impact within the company. Adjust the committee's structure, membership, or responsibilities as needed to optimize its effectiveness.

Once the committee is formed, with the mission in mind, then is the time to have fun. Wilson said, "As we

get out and talk to people about opportunities to educate, it is amazing how many people in education roles do not know about these wonderful opportunities for their students. Everyone does not need a traditional degree to have a successful and prosperous career. Our industry offers some great career paths, we just have to get the word out. It really is a matter of education."

Following these steps, a company can form an internal committee that is well-equipped to address next-gen issues and contribute to the company's success, now and in the future. Let NGT help you form an internal Next Gen Committee. Reach out to me if you are interested.

**Lindsey Trent**

President & Co-Founder, Next Gen Trucking Association

## Advice For The Long Haul

Prior to launching the Patterson High School program in 2017 my director and I went on a fact finding mission to learn from other CDL training providers across the country. Luckily one of our stops led us to tour the truck driving program at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin. It was here I met Rob Behnke the program's director and he gave me one of the best pieces of advice that I still lean on today.

His advice as we move forward in creating one of the nation's first high school truck driving programs was to focus on relationship building. At the time he gave me this advice I was overwhelmed with details and unknowns, but those words provided reassurance and clarity. Looking back over the last six years it is evident that advice played a pivotal role in not only our program's success, but also in my own personal life. I'm very grateful for the amazing individuals that I have been able to meet because of this program and for the lifelong friendships that have been formed. Thanks Rob, I'm so glad I heeded your advice!



**Dave Dein**  
Co-Founder NGT

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## Student Graduate Spotlight

By Dave Dein

Life for Anthony Espinosa hasn't always been easy, but he chooses every day to embrace it with joy and positivity.

Anthony is a senior at Patterson High School and is getting ready to graduate from the truck driving program.

What attracted him to trucking was all of the opportunities it had to offer. He plans to use his skills as a commercial truck driver for not only his financial stability but also to better the lives of his family. He is excited about all the changes that are occurring in trucking and sees his place in the generation that will be a part of the transformation.



**"ANTHONY"**  
PATTERSON HIGH SCHOOL

## NGT IN THE NEWS

Truckers preview next-generation electric big rigs

STOCKTON -- Parked on the Port of Stockton grounds Thursday were two black and white Nikola zero-emission semi-trucks that were being shown to truck driver fleets.

[Read Article CBS/Bay Area](#)



### Next Generation in Trucking expanding driver training for high schoolers

The Next Generation in Trucking Association is using a recently awarded grant to expand a driver training program for high schoolers beyond its California roots.

Co-founder and President Lindsey Trent said Next Generation in Trucking earlier this month was awarded a \$127,000 grant from Knorr-Bremse Global Care North America. The foundation is operated by Germany's Knorr-Bremse, which owns U.S.-based brake manufacturer Bendix.

[Read Article from FREIGHTWAVES](#)

### Next Generation in Trucking Foundation expands driver training opportunities

AVON, Ohio — Eduardo is a 4.0 GPA student getting his hands on the big rig wheel and his eyes on a high-tech career.

Leilani is a diesel technician aiming to drive over the road and encourage other women to enter the industry. Javier was a struggling young man who sought to make better choices.

[Read Article from The Trucker](#)



### Preparing tomorrow's professional truck drivers — Taking the Hire Road

This week on Taking the Hire Road, Jeremy Reymer, CEO and founder of DriverReach, is joined again by passionate industry leader Lindsey Trent, co-founder and president of the Next Generation in Trucking Association (NGT) to discuss the importance of welcoming tomorrow's trucking industry professionals.

The industry is not usually a first choice for many young people, particularly those 30 and under. For driving schools across the U.S., the average new-entry age is 38 years old, according to Reymer. This is due to a variety of reasons, including age limitations and lack of awareness.

[Listen to the podcast](#)





## Students from Laurel Oaks had an awesome experience at the Mid America Truck Show

The school is one of four campuses in the Great Oaks district in Cincinnati

CONTRIBUTED BY GARY BRONSON, INDUSTRIAL DIESEL MECHANICS INSTRUCTOR

Laurel Oaks is in Wilmington, Ohio, and offers many opportunities for career training to 11th and 12th graders. The IT, Auto Body, and Industrial Diesel students displayed projects at the 2023 Mid-America Trucking Show. They brought along the Honors Chemistry program from Blanchester High School, who helped guide the students in making biodiesel from waste vegetable oil. You might have seen their informative display on biofuel production.

All of the Oaks programs collaborated on building driving simulators and a monster Jeep which was displayed in the west hall during the show. The Jeep is a 1995 Wrangler the students have worked on for over 4 years. It was in storage for many years in serious disrepair when the school acquired it. It was a chassis with an engine just sitting in it without suspension, interior, or wiring. The Jeep had a v8 Chevy engine, and the students decided it needed a diesel engine. They chose an R2.8 Cummins diesel. They joined up with the welding program students and got to work fabricating motor mounts and mocking up the Cummins. They also fabricated all the suspension mounts and set the driveline angles. The frame and body were sandblasted and then sent to the Auto Body students at the Live Oaks Campus in Milford, Ohio. The students then began the assembly process, working together in what was a monumental task, to rebuild the Jeep to the point it was when displayed at the trucking show.



"I am so proud of the students and their commitment to making it all happen. Many people at the show were surprised that the Jeep had been built by high school students," said Gary Bronson, Diesel Mechanics Instructor. "Participating in the show has opened many doors for my students in meeting people from all over the world and interacting with industry professionals. Special thanks to the crew at Quality Carriers and Truck Drivers USA for providing my students with lunch. We all look forward to coming back next year and can't wait to see what transpires from all of the awesome contacts we made this year!"

We cannot achieve our goals on our own. We need partners who share our commitment to improving the trucking industry and changing lives.

Welcome to these **new members** and thank you to those who have recently **renewed NGT membership**.

[JOIN TODAY](#)

Crowder Community College  
Day & Ross  
Gordon Food Service  
Irving Materials – IMI  
Marvin Johnson  
Old Dominion  
Patterson Unified School District  
Walmart



## HAVE YOU LISTENED TO OUR PODCAST ?

Join Lindsey Trent as she met with Tim Kordula, Administrator/Instructor/

DON'T MISS THE CURRENT EPISODE OF  
THE NEXT GEN TALK PODCAST



3rd Party D.O.T. Examiner at Karl's Transport Commercial Driver CDL Training School and Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association Board Member. In this discussion, they chat through the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program (SDAP), 18-year-old drivers being able to drive interstate, and the future of the trucking industry.

This is a great episode to listen to if you have considered being in the SDAP or if you would like to know more information about it.

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