

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Fanslow diagnosing car troubles.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

RIVERSIDE AUTOMOTIVE manager receives award

Fanslow honored

BY SARAH KNIEFF

Staff Writer

RED WING — Matt Fanslow, diagnostic technician and manager at Riverside Automotive, received AAPEX's Technician of the Year award for his 27 years of industry experience, training and commitment.

"It's very surreal," Fanslow said. "I can't express enough how flattering it is simply to know someone took the time to fill out the application to nominate me. That by itself is so very humbling and touching. Winning, I don't know that it has really sunk in, to be honest. My initial reaction when they called me was to apologize to them that they must have had so few applicants."

Fanslow was first introduced to the world of auto repair during his time at Red Wing High School.

"Red Wing Technical College had an automotive technology program and the instructor stopped into one of my high school shop classes," Fanslow said. "He held up some of the sensors used on cars at the time, and I got many of them right, mainly because my grandparents owned Red Wing Implement Co., and I'd seen them on the shop's vehicles and some of the tractors at the time."

The instructor was impressed.

"He called my parents and told them what a promising future I had in auto repair," Fanslow said. "I decided to enroll, mostly as something to fall back on. I saw a scan tool on a vehicle in the shop area and that was really it. I was hooked. I needed to know what it was, and how it worked."

He attended Red Wing Technical College in 1994-1996 for the automotive technology program and started his career at Riverside on Jan. 2, 2012.

What is AAPEX?

Automotive Aftermarket Products Expo (AAPEX) is a premier trade-only event representing the more than \$1.6 trillion global automotive industry.

For more information, visit aapexshow.com.

Fanslow now invests 80 hours a year in different training program and is a ASE master certified technician and L1 automotive advanced engine performance specialist.

"I love solving puzzles," Fanslow said. "I love technology, and I really want to find out the root cause of an issue. Every day is different. One day I have a bunch of vehicles with warning lamps illuminated, the next day I'm taking apart a module to perform a circuit board level repair, and the next day I may have a couple of ADAS camera calibrations/aimings to do."

Recently, Fanslow started his own podcast titled "Diagnosing the Aftermarket A to Z" to shed light on issues that affect the repair of modern automobiles and personal struggles.

"I talk about anything and everything that could be related to or be involved in the lives of anyone in the automotive repair profession," Fanslow said. "Nothing is off-limits. I'll have guests, or go solo, and discuss topics involving vehicles directly, shop management or personal issues that can affect any of us."

Fanslow said he is excited for the future of his podcast and grateful for the positive community response.

Readers can reach Sarah Knieff at sknieff@ourourkemediagroup.com.



Fanslow's podcast can be found on Apple platforms, Spotify and more.

