

# CTE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## MEET HEIDI!

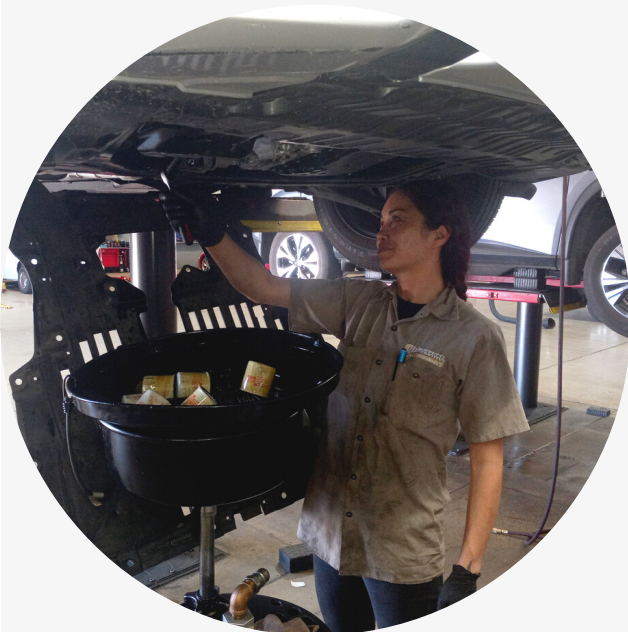
Heidi is a COS Alumni who earned an **Associate of Science Degree in Automotive Technology** in May of 2021.

## HEIDI'S BACKGROUND

Heidi spent the first couple of years of her life in the Philippines. Growing up in a military family consisted of moving every few years. Prior to moving to Visalia, Heidi lived in "Big Sky Country" Montana.



Heidi Nyquist  
**Service Advisor, Lube Technician**  
Groppetti Automotive

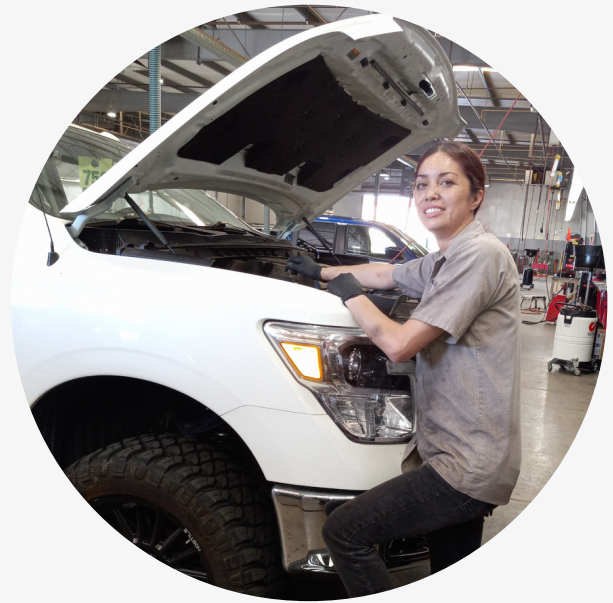


## WHERE HEIDI IS TODAY

Upon graduation from COS, Heidi started working at **Groppetti Automotive** as a **Lube Technician**. She loves that it is **fast-paced, hands-on** and that she has great coworkers! What Heidi loves most about her job is that there hasn't been a day that she hasn't laughed because of the great people she works with. She also enjoys that she is constantly learning and gaining new skills. Recently, she was offered a position within the company as a **Service Advisor**.

## WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO WORK IN THE AUTOMOTIVE FIELD?

For Heidi, it was important to be self-sufficient and well-rounded. She wanted to make sure she knew how to take care of her own vehicle and never worry about being stranded. She also thinks automotive is a great field that not many women are in. This is one of the reasons Heidi also joined the **Female Mechanic's Society**. Additionally, Heidi hopes to inspire her 7 year old son to be involved in the field of technology, by teaching him how to work on cars.



Heidi Nyquist  
**Service Advisor, Lube Technician**  
Groppetti Automotive

## WHAT SHE LOVES MOST ABOUT HER CURRENT ROLE

Heidi loves going above and beyond for her customers. As Heidi puts it, "there are **endless opportunities** to learn in the shop. I don't have to stick to just my station, it is **flexible**, and it is a very **supportive environment**."

## WHILE AT COS

Heidi was a part of the CTE Student Success Program and CalWorks programs at COS. During her time on-campus she attended the COS Student Professional Conference (ProCon), Entree to Employment, and participated in as many extracurricular activities as she could, which helped her grow professionally.

## WHAT SHE ENJOYED MOST ABOUT HER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT COS

Heidi's response: "I liked that Mr. Howell always had answers to every question I had. There were many possibilities within the program and I also enjoyed taking some extra business classes. I was very lucky to get hired right after graduating and I am definitely very grateful to all of the teacher's and staff at COS that have helped me through my education."

## ADVICE TO OTHER STUDENTS

Heidi says, "Do your **research** and try to **stay organized**. Don't be afraid to **ask questions**. If you're in the Automotive program at COS, don't be afraid to ask Mr. Howell questions - he's got answers and is always willing to help."