



NEWS RELEASE

The Career Playbook for Thriving in Fast-Changing Automotive Technology

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A long and successful career in automotive technology requires a commitment to continuous learning and the courage to make strategic decisions. For Visteon's 25th anniversary, we spotlight the journey of people like Dave Lavacek, a veteran whose career path from mechanical reliability to embedded software offers a playbook for thriving in a fast-evolving industry.

A Visteon Career Forged in the Transition from Ford

Dave's story is deeply intertwined with our own. He began his career in Ford's components division in 1994, working in the quality office on climate control systems. In 1997, he made a move from mechanical reliability and quality into audio software, his first software role, placing him at the center of the digital revolution in the vehicle from the very beginning.

For many, a career path is a straight line. For Dave, it was an opportunity to switch lanes. This move was a leap from one engineering discipline to another, requiring a new way of thinking and a whole new skillset. It's the epitome of a deep-seated curiosity and a refusal to be defined by one's original plans.

The Reward for Adaptation Is Delivering Innovation

This willingness to learn and adapt paid off in tangible, market-leading products. Among his proudest milestones, Dave lists the Visteon Navigation Radio launch and a Voice Bluetooth module launch. These projects represent key moments in infotainment history, and Dave's contributions were central to their success.



The most rewarding aspect of this journey? For Dave, it's simple: "All the different products and technologies learned." His career proves that the greatest reward for hard work and learning is the opportunity to learn even more.

Why On-the-Job Training is Key to a Long Automotive Tech Career

In an industry where technology evolves in months, not years, how has Dave remained so effective? "Constant on the job training," he says. "Learning new tools, processors, and technologies while delivering products." This philosophy of continuous, real-world education is the key to staying not just relevant, but essential.

When asked to summarize his journey in a single word, he offers a candid and perfect description: "rollercoaster." It's an acknowledgment of the thrilling highs and complex challenges that define a career at the cutting edge of technology.

The Best Career Advice: Don't Wait for It to Come to You

For engineers and tech professionals starting their journey at Visteon today, Dave's advice is a call for proactive curiosity.

"Always look at new things, whether software that you are not responsible for in your current product, technology outside your device in the same system, or entirely new technologies," he urges. "Don't wait for it to come to you."

Dave's story proves that a curious mind is the most valuable tool in technology. If you're ready to put yours to the test, **explore a career at Visteon.**