

THE COURIER-TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022 | COURIER-TRIBUNE.COM



Richard Petty autographs a piece of metal students use for welding practice.

Northern Tool + Equipment

Richard Petty, tool company donate tools to high school

BY COURIER-TRIBUNE STAFF

RANDLEMAN — Northern Tool + Equipment and Richard Petty have launched a partnership and provided a significant donation of professional-grade tools to Petty's alma mater, Randleman High School.

The donation took place on Dec. 8 with the help of Lincoln Electric and Ingersoll Rand. The donation is part of Northern Tool + Equipment's Tools for the Trades program, which is dedicated to making tool donations to schools to ensure they can expand their trade learning options and show students the valuable option of working in the trades.

Petty said that the partnership with Northern Tool + Equipment is fueled

by his enthusiasm for the trades, particularly welding.

"Most people know about my NASCAR career, but welding has been a passion of mine since a young age," Petty said. "Arming myself with a trade served me well in my post-racing days and is still an important part of the work we do at Petty's Garage. Through this partnership, I hope more students will find a passion for the trades."

Petty joined Northern Tool + Equipment CEO Suresh Krishna to present the tools and gift cards to students in automotive and metals classes.

Krishna said that the Tools for the Trades program began in 2021 to give instructors the tools to effectively teach the trades and ignite excitement

and curiosity for the trades in students.

"We work with men and women in the trades every day. We know there is a skilled labor shortage. This program can help address the labor shortage," Krishna said.

Together with Petty and Lincoln Electric, Northern Tool + Equipment's Tools for the Trades program donated pallets full of tools that will help students in the school's Career and Technical Education programs, including a Lincoln Electric welder, Ingersoll Rand compressor and equipment ranging from hand tools to inverters to air hoses.

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