

# CAV Talent Catalyst Pilot Program

## Success Story: Diego Mendoza

### The Story

Diego Mendoza, a recent Automotive Engineering graduate from Ontario Tech University located in Oshawa, ON, works as an Onboard Safety Attendant with the Ottawa based start-up company Autoguardian.

While studying automotive engineering Diego knew that he needed extra studies in the field to boost his competitive edge against other graduates. He chose to participate in the CAV Talent Catalyst Pilot Program hosted by Area X.O, to learn more about autonomous vehicles and get a fresh perspective on the future of the industry.

### The Obstacle

As a new graduate Diego faced a few challenges. He chose to fast track through school and missed out on Co-op and internship opportunities and due to COVID-19 regulations in March 2020, he realized his options for getting work experience were limited.

Employers in the CAV sector were looking for software engineers and due to his lack of software experience it was difficult to get noticed in his chosen field. However, Diego refused to let that hold him back and he chose to persevere on his search for employment in his preferred field.



### The Solution

While researching the CAV industry, Diego found the Invest Ottawa's CAV Talent Catalyst program and applied. He was accepted into the program and participated in various virtual workshops.

As a result of participating in the CAV Talent Catalyst Program, the Invest Ottawa Talent team informed Diego about an employment opportunity at Autoguardian. Diego quickly applied for that opportunity and was selected for employment.

Diego is very grateful for the CAV Catalyst Talent program and believes what he learned through that program helped him gain employment in the industry he wanted to work in.



# The Update and the Future

Invest Ottawa's CAV Talent Catalyst Pilot program's curriculum benefitted Diego as it gave him a clear picture of the future of the CAV industry and the direction it is going in. He developed a better understanding of the industry and how the future of driving will evolve.

Diego is passionate about innovation in the automotive sector, and he is impressed with how devices can communicate with each other.

Diego is loving his employment at Autoguardian and sees the potential of the company and his future in the autonomous vehicle sector.

## Testimonial

"I heard about the CAV talent program through my university's Co-op and Internship office. As an Automotive Engineering graduate, I jumped at the opportunity and signed up for the CAV Talent Catalyst Pilot Program. I attended the various webinars exposing me to the future of smart mobility and smart infrastructure. I was intrigued and excited on how big this movement is and how it's going to disrupt a lot of different industries.

However, as a fresh graduate with a mechanical background it was quite difficult to find a job right away especially in the AV industry. I got lucky and received an email from the program regarding an opportunity with AutoGuardian by SmartCone. I submitted my application right away and got accepted. I am so grateful and happy to be part of the AutoGuardian team as a Safety Attendant and to be part of the AV industry." – Diego Mendoza



## Get Connected!

**Diego Mendoza**

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