



Mercedes-Benz

Press Information

November 11, 2025

Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston Launches Youth Training Program with local Community Resource Center

- MBV Charleston, CRC, and Charleston County Schools launched a hands-on youth manufacturing program.
- First cohort started Oct 2; graduation Nov 13 with MBV Youth Training certificates.
- Program reflects MBV Charleston's pledge to "Sprinting Forward. Giving Back." and building future team members.

Charleston, South Carolina - Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston (MBV Charleston), in partnership with the Community Resource Center (CRC) and the Charleston County School District, announced today the successful launch and first graduation of its MBV Charleston Youth Training Program; a hands-on auto manufacturing training initiative for local high school seniors interested in careers in manufacturing.

The program began October 2nd with safety and orientation training hosted at MBV Charleston and transitioned to weekly hands-on classes in the newly outfitted MBV Charleston Youth Training Program room at the CRC. Students from Burke High School, North Charleston High School, R.B. Stall High School, West Ashley High School, and Baptist Hill High School will participate in a curriculum taught by skilled MBV Charleston professionals that blends practical technical instruction with essential workplace skills.

"We are sprinting forward and giving back to our community by investing in young people who will help shape the future of manufacturing in Charleston. This program gives students real advantage in the job market; not only through tool-room proficiency and production practices, but also by building the soft skills employers value, such as teamwork, communication, and interview readiness."

Johannes Kellermann, President & CEO - Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston

Program Highlights

- **Hands-on technical training:** Students learn fundamental toolset knowledge, correct tool selection for production scenarios, and practical assembly and safety procedures.
- **Soft skills development:** Coaching on resume building, interview preparation, workplace expectations, and professional communications.
- **Industry instructors:** MBV Charleston technicians and trainers deliver instruction and mentorship, providing students direct exposure to career pathways at a global manufacturing employer.
- **Local collaboration:** The CRC provides classroom space and community support while the Charleston County School District facilitates student participation and alignment with school schedules.

Since the program's pilot launch, five students have advanced through the curriculum and are now well positioned to pursue careers in auto manufacturing. The first class from the current cohort will graduate on

Thursday, November 13th, receiving an MBV Charleston Youth Training Program certificate that recognizes their hands-on experience and readiness for entry-level roles.

Community Impact and Future Plans

The MBV Charleston Youth Training Program embodies a community-first approach: building local talent pipelines, reducing barriers to skilled employment, and strengthening ties between education and industry. MBV Charleston anticipates welcoming the next group of students from North Charleston High School in the coming weeks and looks forward to continuing to expand opportunities for more Charleston youth.

“As we grow, our goal is to create a steady pathway from high school to meaningful employment with MBV Charleston and other manufacturing partners. We’re proud to continue investing in people, skills, and a stronger community.”

Matthew Hamrick, Head of HR - Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston

About MBV Charleston

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC (“MBV Charleston”) is a Ladson, South Carolina-based production entity that manufactures Sprinter vans for the U.S. and Canadian markets.

The Sprinter plant officially opened in 2018 and serves as a key part of the Mercedes-Benz Vans global production network. MBV Charleston was selected as the first plant in this network to produce the all-new eSprinter, beginning in 2024. The company also continues to invest in the local community through donations to non-profits and schools, as well as active support of STEM education initiatives and volunteer programs.

Since 2006, Sprinter and Metris vans have been assembled in North Charleston and delivered to destinations across the United States. In 2025, the plant celebrated the assembly of the 5,000,000th Sprinter in the Mercedes-Benz global production network. The U.S. remains the second largest market for Sprinter vans after Germany.

<https://mbvcharleston.com/>

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Further information about **Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC** is available at www.mbvcharleston.com and on our **LinkedIn channel** under [Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston | LinkedIn](#).

Press information and digital services for journalists and multipliers can be found on our

Mercedes-Benz Media online platform at media.mercedes-benz.com.

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