

## GM Recruits New Product Designers At Busy MCC Hiring Fair in Warren

by Gerald Scott  
News Dept.

The good news was that there was a record turnout for the big Macomb Community College Job Fair in Warren last week.

The bad news was that there was a record turnout – it means there’s still plenty of people, plenty of good job candidates, who haven’t found work if the overall MCC Job Fair’s impact is any indication.

Ironically, it was “only” a three-hour job fair – from 4-7 p.m. on May 1, and yet at one point, as a new candidate was coming through the turnstile every 5-10 seconds, all afternoon long, one MCC official observed that “it’s like salmon swimming upstream, there’s no stopping them.”

Bravo, then, to organizers MCC and the city of Warren, which combined efforts to organize and staff the big event, together for the first time.

The reason for MCC - Warren cooperation was obvious, according to Nancy Bourgeois, Director of Community, Economic & Downtown Development for the city: “A number of businesses from Warren are recruiting here today,” she said.

Robert Penkala, director of Career Services at MCC, observed that the number of recruiting firms doubled from last year, up from 60 a year ago to 120 this year. He expected about 1,500 job candidates to come through the

doors in the fair’s three-hour run. Leading the recruiting drive was General Motors, which was a favorite of candidates dropping off resumes and seeking fresh contacts.

“We’re recruiting product designers,” said Thomas Van Slembrouck, senior manager, GM Interior Engineering Design. “The entire region is short of product designers. These positions are mostly based in Warren, although a few are in Pontiac.

“Demand has increased in the past 12-18 months, so we know we needed to bring in more resources, as well as to develop the next generation of product design expertise. We need to develop a ‘feeder pool.’

“This (MCC Job Fair) is another way to get the word out that auto is hiring again.”

Van Slembrouck added that the GM booth was intentionally staffed deliberately with younger employees, all in their early 20s in order to connect with today’s younger job candidate base.

Indeed, even though the Job Fair was held on a college campus, it was open to all comers, but an eyeball of the job candidate pool at the midpoint of the fair showed this one to be top-heavy with the 30-and-under age range.

And although GM was the signature corporate recruiter at the event, with 120 firms, this wasn’t necessarily an auto or engineering fair at that.

Other auto firms with booths included Aerotek, the

big engineering house, as well as local suppliers like Marposs, Collex Collision Experts, Diversified Tooling, Halpin Design, Central Transport and more.

Non-auto recruiters included retailers like Mary Kay Cosmetics, Lipari Foods, State Farm Insurance, Shore Mortgage, United Lawnscapes and Victoria’s Secret.

The two largest non-auto recruiters were Beaumont Hospitals and Quicken Loans, the latter of which always seems to be in a hiring mode.

Marposs Corp., an industrial and auto supplier in Auburn Hills, had a booth there and recruiters said that they received 25 to 30 good resumes from candidates who stopped by. Marposs is hiring proposal engineers, sales engineers, service engineers and repair technicians.

Then there was Crystal Weekley, 23 a local woman who recently graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in biological sciences. She described it as still being a challenging job market out there. She’s proud of her bio degree but she’s worried that perhaps recruiters will only see her as a possible “biology teacher” and not a well-rounded candidate.

“I want to broaden out and to find employment (whether in bio sciences or not),” she said. She was standing in line to talk to the Beaumont recruiters and she said she was hopeful something might turn up for her at this event.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

Recruiting for the Army National Guard at the MCC Job Fair in Warren last week is SFC Steven Mrozek, left. Mrozek said he first joined the Guard when he was 34 years old – now he’s 60. “If you want some excitement in your life, join the Guard,” he said.



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

GM recruiters said they brought in younger GM employees to help staff the automaker’s booth, all to relate to a younger audience of job candidates attending the MCC Job Fair in Warren.

## GM Tech Center Recycles Used Coffee Grounds

WARREN – One man’s trash really is another man’s treasure. Even old coffee grounds.

John Bradburn, General Motors manager of waste-reduction efforts, has instituted a coffee grounds recycling program at the Warren Tech Center where his team works.

The result is saving approximately 3,000 pounds a year of this nitrogen and phosphorus-rich coffee grounds from being thrown out with the garbage.

Each week, Bradburn and others within GM’s Real Estate and Facilities group remove two 10-gallon buckets of used coffee grounds from the coffee area and take it home to use in their gardens as a substitute for bedding or organic pest repellent. The uses for coffee grounds are many, so nobody wants for a reason to use it.

“I took some of the recycled grounds home last week to use in my vegetable garden,” said Michele Hogan, who works in accounting on Bradburn’s team. “They are a great source of nutrients for my green peppers and tomatoes.”

While less robust than GM’s goal of making its plants and facilities landfill free, the project has proven it has grounds for sustainability.

And if there’s one thing Bradburn can be certain, it’s the amount of java that keeps his team going.

“I never knew our team drank so much coffee,” he said. “But I suppose it’s one more reason why this is good for the environment.”

## Annual Day of Prayer In Warren Sure Brings Out Best in Clergy, Community

by Gerald Scott  
News Dept.

One of the great public events of late in Warren is the annual National Day of Prayer, held on the first Thursday of May at city hall’s outdoor plaza.

Warren celebrated its 6th annual observation of the National Day of Prayer on May 3 as several hundred people, including local clergy and the Warren Mott High School marching band, all gathered for the occasion.

According to a note in the event program, “the National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage.

“Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln’s proclamation of a day of ‘humiliation, fasting and prayer’ in 1863.

“In 1952,” it continues, “a joint resolution of Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual, national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.”

In Warren, it all plays out as a big public ceremony that includes patriotic songs from the Mott High School band, as well as subtler and softer songs sung by students from the Warren Woods Christian School.

Local clergy plays a big part in the Warren ceremony as well as UAW Chaplain Donald Rice, Army Chaplain Pablo Madera and St. Martin de Porres Fr. Roman Pasieczny were among a half-dozen or more speakers, all of whom invoked God’s blessings on the third largest city in Michigan.

Warren Mayor Jim Fouts was lead organizer and believ-

er in the big public event.

“The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation, it enables us to teach the way in which our Founding Fathers sought the wisdom of God when facing critical decisions,” Fouts said.

“It stands as a call to us to humbly come before God, seeking his guidance and his grace upon us as a people. Unanimous passage of the bill establishing the National Day of Prayer as an annual event signifies that prayer is as important to our nation today as it was in the beginning.

“It is estimated that over 2 million people attend over 30,000 observances like we have in Warren today (supported) by approximately 40,000 volunteers.”

Let the record show that the tradition continues strong at Warren city hall as well.

“At state capitols, county courthouses, on the steps of city halls... people stop their activities and gather for prayer, as they are today.

“Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength even before we were a nation, when we were a handful of colonies.”

Ironically, last Thursday in



PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

UAW Chaplain Donald Rice worked at the GM Tech Center as an electrician for 43 years, retiring in 2008. He was a keynote speaker at Warren’s National Day of Prayer at city hall last week.

Warren was a rainy day, then an hour before the big public gathering, the sun was shining through the clouds, so perhaps the local weatherman is somehow divinely inspired.

Regardless, visitors said it was a respectful, engaging presentation and they’re looking forward to the 2013 event.

Let the record show that the tradition continues strong at Warren city hall.

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## HFM Hosts ‘Car Culture’ Talk

DEARBORN – Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Paul Ingrassia will speak on American car culture and how it has propelled and reflected the American experience, on Sunday, May 13, at 2 p.m. in Henry Ford Museum’s Anderson Theater.

The lecture and Q&A session, moderated by Bob Casey, The Henry Ford’s senior curator of transportation, will also include a signing of Ingrassia’s new book, “Engines of Change: History of the American Dream in 15 Cars.”

The event is free and open to the public, although guests are encouraged to register in advance at the Web site corresponding to Eventbrite.

“Engines of Change” is a look back at American history and cultural ties cars have had, and continue to have, in our everyday lives.

While focusing on 15 iconic cars of the past, from the Model T to the LaSalle to the Mustang and Prius, Ingrassia also looks into the lives of the people who revved up the auto industry, including Henry Ford, Lee Iacocca and more.

“For decades, the connec-

tion between cars and self-image has been understood and appreciated by prominent philosophers,” said Ingrassia.

“Consider the Beach Boys. Their song ‘Fun Fun Fun’ wasn’t so much about the Ford

Thunderbird as about the free-spirited teenage girl who drove one.”

Ingrassia is a Pulitzer-Prize-winning writer and current deputy editor-in-chief for Reuters news service.

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