

2013 NAIAS Education Day to Feature Latest Automotive-Related Technologies

With the rapidly growing use of wireless technology, smartphones and the Internet, today's youth are more connected and tech-savvy than ever.

The North American International Auto Show will focus on the various automotive-related technologies for students at all levels at its annual Education Day, Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Detroit's Cobo Center.

Now in its eighth year, NAIAS Education Day is a back-to-basics hands-on experience designed to attract students to the vibrancy of today's automotive industry.

NAIAS provides an in-depth auto show experience where students can view approximately 500 new vehicles on display, and explore various industry-related subjects they are studying, such as technology, graphic design, culinary arts, journalism, etc., through tours and hands-on activities facilitated by experts in their particular field.

NAIAS 2013, one of the world's premier automotive events, takes place Jan. 19-27.

Students may become further engaged through pre- and post-show lesson plans found on the Education Day website, naias.com/ned.htm.

New for NAIAS Education Day 2013, the National Defense Education Program and STARBASE One will host student workshops for selected high school students focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) education.

Also, Ally Bank will host workshops on credit and vehicle financing as part of its Ally Wallet Wise free financial education program.

Wallet Wise teaches financial education basics in the areas of budgeting, credit, banking and investing, and financing a vehicle via in-person sessions and through online courses at www.AllyWalletWise.com.

Select NAIAS Education Day

Avondale Schools Take the 'A' Train To Raise Funds

Before there were cars, there were trains. Some who enjoy visiting the Auto Show might want to visit the Avondale School District's "A Train" Show on Sunday, Jan. 20, at the high school, 2800 Waukegan in Auburn Hills.

The event is the largest model train show in the state by attendance, boasting nearly 400 tables of trains this year.

The show attracted more than 2,700 adults and 1,000 children in 2012.

Admission is \$3 per person; children 12 and under are free, and there are door prizes.

Frank Lams, Avondale's assistant superintendent for Administrative Services – and a train hobbyist himself – has coordinated the "A Train" since its inception.

According to Lams, new activities have been added this year, including a presentation of the feature movie, "Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Blue Mountain Mystery," in the high school's auditorium. He maintains the 'A Train' is one of the best entertainment values in town for families.

"Any money (visitors) spend on admission and refreshments goes toward a great cause – the Avondale Education Foundation," Lams said.

Tom DelPup, president of the Avondale Education Foundation (AEF), said the "A Train" show raised \$11,320 for AEF in 2012 and will serve as the Foundation's primary fundraising initiative for 2013 as well.

high school students are invited to participate in Wallet Wise credit and vehicle financing session, which will teach the fundamentals of applying for and maintaining good credit, as well as the different payment options available when buying or leasing a vehicle.

"Ally is committed to advancing financial literacy through its Wallet Wise program, and we are pleased to be able to offer information on personal finances to high school students," said Gina Proia, chief communications officer and head of Ally's community programs.

"Financial literacy is an important aspect of consumer education at any age and the partnership with NAIAS is allowing us to help spread this knowledge to members of our local Detroit community."

NAIAS 2013 Chairman Jim Seavitt said he believes Education Day may help inspire some of the next generation of automotive leaders.

"Let's face it, STEM education is vital to our domestic automotive industry," said Seavitt. "It's one of the many aspects that students can explore at this unique educational event, and NAIAS is pleased to provide this opportunity to our community of young people."

NAIAS Education Day is open to students of all ages, including college level. Companies involved include the National Defense Education Program, STARBASE One, Ally Bank, Automation Alley and The PNC Foundation, which specializes in early childhood education.

Also, with the support of the PNC Foundation, the NAIAS Education Day promises to bring STEAM education to more students than ever, even down to the earliest grade levels. As part of its "Grow Up Great" initiative, more than 200 select Detroit Public Schools preschoolers will attend Education Day.

"PNC's signature philanthropic initiative, 'Grow Up Great,' is one of the most comprehensive early childhood education programs in the nation," said PNC Regional President Ric DeVore. "PNC's support of NAIAS Education Day will help to provide learning opportunities at the very start of the educational process."

By registering early, participating schools also have the opportunity to receive a \$100 bus grant. The bus grant is available to the first 100 buses from applying schools.

Spangenberg to Head Newly Formed GM Africa as Two Units Consolidate

General Motors is consolidating its Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa operations into a new unit, GM Africa.

Mario A. Spangenberg, current president and managing director of GM North Africa, will become president and managing director of GM Africa. He will be based at GM Africa's headquarters in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

With this consolidation, Tarek Atta will become managing director of GM Egypt and North Africa, reporting to Spangenberg.

Edgar Lourençon, who has served as managing director of GM South Africa and president of GM Sub-Saharan Africa since November 2009, will assist in the transition and repatriate to South America later this year.

He will report to Mark Barnes, a GM International Operations vice president, and chief country operations officer, Africa and Australia.

"Bringing our operations in Africa together will enable us to take advantage of synergies across the continent," said Tim Lee, GM vice president, Global Manufacturing, and president, International Operations.

"It will put GM in a strong position to expand in a part of the world that has tremendous long-term potential for vehicle sales growth."

GM does business in more than 50 markets in Africa, and has manufacturing operations in South Africa, Egypt and Kenya. In 2012, GM sold 180,493 vehicles in Africa, an increase of 17.5 percent from the previous year.

"We are pleased to have Mario, a proven leader and an agent of change, overseeing our Africa operations," said Barnes. "He has done an outstanding job growing GM's business in North Africa, despite intense political and economic challenges."

Spangenberg has been in his present position since July 1, 2011. He earlier held key posts in other parts of the world, including director of Sales Operations for GM de Mexico, managing director of International Sales for GM Daewoo Auto & Technology in South Korea, and director of Marketing for Adam Opel AG in Germany.

He began his industry career in 1980 at Volkswagen.

In addition to his most recent assignment in GM International Operations, Lourençon has held several important positions in South America, including director of Quality and director of Sales and Field Operations for GM in Latin America, and president and managing director of GM Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and Bolivia.



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