

Detroit Auto Scene®

NEWSPAPER OF THE BIG 3 AUTO INDUSTRY

VOL. 81 NO. 10

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933" NEW CENTER NEWS

MARCH 18, 2013



Student mathletes competed at the MATHCOUNTS competition held at the VEC lobby at the GM Tech Center.

GM Hosts Student Math Competition

The top 145 "Mathletes" from across Michigan rolled into Warren recently to compete in the MATHCOUNTS State of Michigan Championship.

The March 9 event, administered by the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, was hosted by GM at the Vehicle Engineering Center once again this year.

MATHCOUNTS, now in its 30th year, is the top math enrichment program in the country. The GM Foundation has been a strong supporter of the national program since its inception and has helped ensure that MATHCOUNTS reaches out to a diverse population of middle-school students.

Students participating in the state championship competed in a series of written tests to identify the top school team and top 10 individuals. The top 10 students then competed on stage in what organizers called the "Countdown Round."

This unique and exciting competition is similar to a spelling bee, but instead of spelling words the students are required to solve rather difficult math problems in mere seconds. The

top students are so adept that they often buzz in with an answer before the moderator can even finish reading the question.

The highest-scoring four individuals in the Countdown Round win an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2013 MATHCOUNTS national championship to represent Michigan. The championship will take place on May 10 in Washington, D.C.

This year, the Countdown Round was moderated by Dr. Gary McDonald, former MATHCOUNTS director/officer and retired GM R&D executive.

In addition, Gary Smyth, executive director, GM Global R&D Laboratories, gave a welcome address to the crowd of more than 400 students, parents, teachers, and volunteers. Smyth highlighted why math is important for future careers in the auto industry as well as to the nation's economic prosperity.

He illustrated his points by describing how GM uses math to develop its products.

At the March 9 event, the Countdown Round was won by Ankan Bhattacharya from Achieve Charter Academy in Canton. Spencer Liu and Freddie

Zhao from Boulan Park Middle School in Troy finished second and third. Kuvam Shahane from Van Hoosen Middle School in Rochester finished fourth. These four will represent Michigan at the national finals in May.

Boulan Park Middle School, coached by Mark Martin, was also the top-scoring team on Saturday, so Martin will coach the state team at the MATHCOUNTS national championship.

Chrysler Lauds TRW for Its Lane-Centering System

by Irena Granaas

Fresh from receiving recognition for its role in garnering 2013 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Top Safety Pick+ status for seven of the 13 vehicles so named, TRW Automotive has added another safety-related award to its collection, this time from Chrysler.

The global automotive supplier earned a 2012 Innovation Award for User Experience and Driver Assistance in the development of Lane Centering Assist systems from Chrysler's Innovation group.

According to John Wilkerson, senior communications manager for TRW Automotive, North America, Chrysler was looking at various suppliers that had worked with the automaker on safety technologies, with the intent to recognize those whose performance in collaborative efforts toward innovation project results were exceptional.

TRW's work with Chrysler on Lane Centering Assist technology was recognized as one of the top supplier partnership projects at Chrysler's inaugural Supplier Innovation Awards Ceremony March 1 at the automaker's Auburn Hills headquarters.

Chrysler thanked TRW for its work in achieving the innovation award for Lane Centering and indicated they were impressed by the hard work and dedication of the small cross-functional team that made this possible.

"TRW is honored to accept this award and particularly pleased to be one of only 13 suppliers selected," said Ken Kaiser, vice president, TRW Global Electronics Engineering. "We will continue our focus on the development of affordable advanced safety systems to benefit the driving public and look forward to working with our Chrysler colleagues on further innovation collaborations in the future."

TRW's Lane Centering Assist is an integrated system that uses a front-facing camera and an electrically powered steering system in the vehicle. The camera looks ahead to detect lane markings, calculates the virtual lane center, and continuously sends torque commands to the electric steering system to keep the vehicle centered in the lane.

"What we're seeing is a move toward more driver assistance systems on the road," Wilkerson commented.

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Arts Academy in the Woods students, from left, Haylie Mousseau, Rachel MacLean, Anthony Chirco and Shelby Klobucar pose in front of the mural they painted outside the Chrysler House in downtown Detroit.

Ford Beats SDD Goal in 2012

Ford exceeded its Supplier Diversity Development (SDD) goal in 2012 by purchasing \$5.7 billion in goods and services from minority-owned suppliers and \$1.2 billion in goods and services from women-owned businesses.

The SDD program aims to source at least 10 percent of U.S. purchases from minority, women and veteran-owned businesses annually.

"As the landscape of the country and the world changes, Ford recognizes that the contributions of diverse and veteran entrepreneurs are important to the success of its business," said SDD Director Carla Preston. "The brand is committed to continuing to strengthen its chain of suppliers through its Supplier Diversity Development program."

Ford's SDD program works with community organizations, trade associations and business leaders to ensure that it continues to represent the interests of diverse businesses.

For the second year in a row, the Women's Business Enterprise National Council has awarded Ford for its productive business partnerships with women-owned businesses and for continuing to develop business practices for today's marketplace.

"For more than 34 years, Ford has been committed to ensuring a diverse supply chain network," said Tony Brown, group vice president, Global Purchasing. "As Ford continues to strengthen its balance sheet, we are similarly committed to the sustainability of our minority, women and veteran suppliers."

Throughout March, which is National Women's History Month, Ford is celebrating the 150 Women's Business Enterprises and minority-led businesses that provide goods and services to the automaker – businesses such as GDC Inc., G-TECH Services Inc. and ETCS Inc.

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Art Students Paint Mural for Chrysler House

A group of students from the Fraser-based Arts Academy in the Woods high school recently completed a mural that covers the walls of the breezeway that connects a parking garage with the Rock Ventures-owned Chrysler House in Griswold in downtown Detroit.

Kayla Friess, outreach, recruitment and admissions officer at the school, said that several students placed their proposals for the mural before building officials from Rock Ventures last September.

Their proposals were successful and they began painting the murals on their weekends. The

project took some time to complete and they finally finished the project in February.

"The students' proposal was full-color, full-detail," Friess said. "They were led by one of our alumni, Anthony Chirco, who graduated from the school last spring. He now attends Macomb Community College."

Arts Academy in the Woods opened its door in August of 2001, and is a free public high school chartered by the Macomb Intermediate School District.

It offers students specialized coursework in the fine and performing arts along with teaching

students lessons designed for the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Painting murals on walls is nothing new to Academy students.

Friess said that many seniors, as part of their senior projects, would paint murals on the walls of the school.

"Right now, we still have plenty of wall space that has yet to be covered, so students aren't in danger of running out of mural space at the school anytime soon," Friess said. "But it's been a while since students painted a mural away from the school, so this project was very exciting for us to be a part of."

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