

Chrysler Grants WCS \$17,500 to Aid Students in Their Space Studies

by Irena Granaas

Chrysler has a long history of aiding the U.S. space program, and continued its tradition March 25 with a \$17,500 grant from the Chrysler Foundation to Warren Consolidated Schools' Butcher Education Center.

The money will enable the school to send a student-designed science experiment to the International Space Program this fall. Butcher is only one of 11 schools in the nation selected to be represented with a science experiment on the International Space Station.

"The Chrysler Foundation and Chrysler Group are proud to help these students literally reach for the stars," said Jody Trapasso, senior vice president – External Affairs, Chrysler, and president – The Chrysler Foundation, in a news release.

"We hope that our support will inspire these students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) that are vital to America's future."

Trapasso cited a recent study by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, which forecasts a need for about 1 million more college graduates in STEM fields than expected under current assumptions.

Many of the participating stu-

dents took the stage at the March 25 grant award event to explain how they will be taking part in the space experiments. The Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) is overseen by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education. Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel expressed pride in the confidence and knowledge demonstrated by students who spoke about the SSEP.

"Knowing Macomb County kids are participating is great . . . It makes it easier for me to promote Macomb County," Hackel said.

"What a wonderful opportunity Chrysler has provided to Warren Consolidated Schools' students through the funding of a real hands-on math-and-science experiment that will rocket into space and board the International Space Station," said Mark Supal, an Interdisciplinary Studies teacher at the Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center. "This experience has truly excited students about careers in engineering and technical fields."

He noted the school has also received a \$3,000 grant from Detroit Edison and \$2,000 from Beaumont Hospital.

Supal said many among the center's 500 students will work in teams of two or three to design at least 80 to 100 experiments. These will range from exploring the pro-

duction of biofuels to the effect of zero gravity on jumping spiders.

All experiments must be conducted inside a plastic tube, the length of a pencil, sealed by a couple of end caps and clamps. The best three will be selected for SSEP review, and only one of those will wind up on the space station sometime in September to go up for about six weeks.

Brian Glowiak, vice president of Chrysler Foundation, congratulated the center's faculty and students, and told students, "You are going to be the future leaders in the new economy."

Glowiak posed the question to students as to why an automotive company like Chrysler would be interested in supporting a program linked to the space program. He gave students a quick history lesson.

In October 1952, he said, the U.S. Army selected Chrysler to assist the Redstone Arsenal in the development of the highly secret XSSM-14 missile project, later named Redstone.

The Redstone was a surface-to-surface medium-range missile weapons systems designed by Dr. Wernher von Braun and a 120-man team of German rocket scientists.

Chrysler management then hand-picked a team of 26 corporate engineers to form the basis of the Engineering Missile



In 1954, Redstone missiles were produced by Chrysler at what is now the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.

Branch, based at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Ala. In August 1953, an Army-built Redstone was successfully test-fired at Cape Canaveral, Fla., resulting in a green light for the Redstone Program.

One year later, the U.S. government asked Chrysler to build five Redstone missiles at what is now the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant.

The first Chrysler-built Redstone was successfully launched at Cape Canaveral in July 1956. With this success, Chrysler was tapped to produce an additional

13 missiles. In May 1961, America's first astronaut Alan Shepard was launched into space in a Redstone vehicle.

Brain J. Walmsley, chief academic officer, Warren Consolidated Schools, said students from Center Line, Cousino, Fraser, Warren Woods-Tower, Warren Mott, Sterling Heights, Lakeview, Lake Shore, South Lake and Clintondale schools come to Butcher.

"It just speaks volumes about what these kids are doing here in math and science in this county," he said.

Faurecia to Build New Headquarters in AH

Three years into what company officials are calling a remarkable surge in growth, Faurecia North America announced on April 2 more details of its plans for a new headquarters building in Auburn Hills.

Since 2010, Faurecia has opened 15 new plants and tech centers in the U.S., Mexico and Canada and has nearly doubled the size of its workforce to more than 20,000. The North America region now accounts for 30 percent of Faurecia's global sales.

In Michigan, that growth has taken the form of six new locations since 2010 and a total of 13 sites that collectively employ more than 4,000 people.

Besides being home to the supplier's headquarters, the new building also will house technical centers for Faurecia Automotive Seating and Faurecia Automotive Exteriors.

"As the auto industry has reinvented itself over the past few years, Faurecia has been a notable success story," said Faurecia North America President Mike Heneka. "We have grown substantially and now we are ready to extend our technical centers and headquarters operations to further support that growth."

"Our new location presents a distinctive opportunity to build from the ground up in a way that most suits our needs and to centralize our technical teams and administrative functions."

The new headquarters facility, at 2800 High Meadow Circle in Oakland Technology Park near I-75 and University Drive, positions Faurecia North America in a more highly visible, easily accessible, more spacious location that is tailored to its needs.

Upon the building's completion in the spring of 2014, up to 700 employees will be transferred to the building from three smaller Michigan facilities: the current Faurecia Automotive Seating Technical Center on Meijer Drive in Troy; Faurecia's Oakland Shared Services Center on Squirrel Road in Auburn Hills; and its Oakland Technical Center for Automotive Exteriors on W. Entrance Drive in Auburn Hills.

The Faurecia Interior Systems Technical Center will remain at its current location at 2500 Executive Hills Blvd. in Auburn Hills.

Faurecia Emissions Control Technologies will continue to be based in Columbus, Ind.

The technical centers in the new facility will carry out prototype development, testing and light assembly activities to further Faurecia North America's commitment to pioneering advanced vehicle systems to meet the auto industry's evolving needs.

"Faurecia has called Auburn Hills its home for 10 years, and we enjoy an excellent relationship with the city's leadership team," Heneka said. "They have been a strong partner in the momentum we have generated, and we are pleased to be expanding our presence in the city."

The layout of the new building will be more conducive to teamwork than were Faurecia's other facilities and will enable program teams to sit together. Shop and testing areas will be upgraded and organized for improved efficiency, and considerably more meeting space will be available.

The 278,000-square-foot building will include a new showroom, dedicated innovation areas, numerous conferences spaces, a larger break room and more parking for employees and visitors.

"Auburn Hills is thrilled to add Faurecia's North American headquarters to our roster of leading national and international manufacturers headquartered here," said Pete Auger, Auburn Hills city manager. "Companies like Faure-

cia are terrific corporate citizens and bring tremendous value to Auburn Hills, solidifying our reputation as the premier global manufacturing address in the Midwest."

Faurecia's newest location will be developed and constructed by General Development Company of Southfield.

Stacy Fields, asset manager at General Development, said that the company is looking forward to completing another project in Auburn Hills.

"The city's ability to process projects with speed and efficiency is outstanding and the renewed availability of the Oakland Technology Park has sparked an increase in 'build to suit' activity, representing a new era of future development for Auburn Hills," Fields said.

"As the auto industry has reinvented itself over the past few years, Faurecia has been a notable success story," Heneka said. "We have grown substantially and now we are ready to extend our technical centers and headquarters operations to further support that growth. Our new location presents a distinctive opportunity to build from the ground up in a way that most suits our needs and to centralize our technical teams and administrative functions."

He said Faurecia has been in Auburn Hills for a decade and that the city has been a strong partner during that time. Construction will begin this month.



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