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GM Designer Tom Peters with Jay Leno at presentation ceremony

GM Performance Car Exterior Designer Accepts Lifetime Achievement Award From World-Renowned Design College

Longtime GM designer Tom Peters has earned a lifetime achievement award for his work.

His alma mater, Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., presented the award Oct. 27.

The California school has been at the forefront of art and design education internationally for more than 80 years.

Currently the director of Exterior Design for performance cars at GM, Peters works at the Tech Center Design building in Warren.

Presenting the award were Stewart Reed, chair of the college's Transportation Design Department, and comedian Jay Leno, "Tonight Show" host and noted car buff and collector.

In addition to more than 30 years of designing some of General Motors' most memorable vehicles, Peters led the exterior studio teams that produced two of GM's most important product introductions this year – the 2014 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray and 2014 Chevrolet Silverado full-size pickup.

In presenting the award, Reed said, "Through your efforts to promote the very best in automotive design, as seen in examples like the 2014 Corvette Stingray, you continue to repre-

sent Art Center in the best way possible and serve as an inspiration for our graduates following in your footsteps."

Peters worked briefly at GM following his 1980 graduation from the college and returned in 1982 after two years with Texas Instruments. His portfolio includes concepts such as the Corvette Indy show car, Pontiac Banshee, Cadillac Sixteen and Buick Velite, as well as production vehicles such as the Corvette C6 and C7, current-generation Camaro, and the new full-size pickup trucks and SUVs from Chevrolet and GMC.

"The list of Art Center alumni at GM is long, but Tom Peters is without a doubt the most visionary designer I have ever known or worked with in my more than 40 years at GM," wrote Ed Welburn, vice president, GM Global Design, in a letter read at the event.

"The men and women who work for Tom share his desire and thirst for winning, and they create incredibly spirited designs."

Welburn went on to note that although "Tom has had an impressive career, let's not forget

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Advocating for STEM, GM VP Calabrese Says Engineers Are Just People Doing Cool Things

(EDITOR'S NOTE: John Calabrese, vice president of Global Vehicle Engineering at GM, began his career with the company as an intern in 1979 and now serves as one of the leading advocates for GM's science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, educational outreach.

With responsibility for global vehicle engineering and global technology operations, he said he takes personally the pursuit of the best and brightest of tomorrow's technology leaders.

Calabrese reports to GM Executive Vice President of Global Product Development and Global Purchasing and Supply Chain Mary Barra, who shares his passion for educating future generations.

Calabrese is the key GM executive for Virginia Tech University and serves on the Advisory Board to Virginia Tech's College of Engineering.

He chaired the Leadership Committee for the 2013 SAE Foundation STEM Celebration and is a board member for the Engineering Society of Detroit and the Michigan Science Center.

After speaking recently to the Midwest Automotive Media Association about STEM, he was interviewed by GM spokesperson Jennifer Ecclestone about the impor-

ance of STEM education. Here are his comments.)

Q. You've spent most of your career in vehicle engineering. Why is advocating for the development of future engineers so important? What is the biggest challenge the industry is facing?

A. Advocating for future engineers is not only vital to GM and the automotive industry, but also the entire global business platform. Nearly 80 percent of future jobs have some component of STEM education such as prob-

lem-solving, problem-posing and design.

The biggest challenge the industry is facing is stopping the leaky pipeline of talent we have, particularly in the U.S., by developing a pool of highly skilled and creative innovators to carry it into the rapidly evolving future.

To achieve this, we need to give students experiences, not just equations, and show them how exciting engineering and math-based science can be when

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John Calabrese with 2014 Corvette Stingray Coupe

GMC Moves Up to 9th in CR's Auto Reliability

The Consumer Reports 2013 Annual Auto Reliability rankings show that automakers from Europe and the U.S. are capable of building reliable vehicles. Audi, Volvo, and GMC captured three of the top 10 spots in the survey this year.

Survey results were released on Oct. 28 at a press conference before the Automotive Press Association in Detroit.

Three Japanese brands, Lexus, Toyota, and Acura captured the top three spots in the survey, which was conducted by the Consumer Reports National Research Center, said Jake Fisher, director of auto testing at Consumer Reports, during the Automotive Press Association event.

The survey is believed to be the largest of its kind; findings are based on CR subscribers' experiences with 1.1 million vehicles. Consumer Reports uses the survey data to compile reliability

histories on vehicles and predict how well new cars that are currently on sale will hold up, Fisher said.

GMC emerged as the top domestic brand, finishing ninth – three places higher than last year. In addition to GMC, Buick climbed nine slots to 12th place over last year. All Buicks except the V6 LaCrosse were average or better, Fisher said.

GMC spokesman Brian Goebel said people at GMC are encouraged by the progress the brand has made.

"As much progress as we've made, ninth place isn't good enough," Goebel said. "We're always looking to get better. These rankings by Consumer Reports demonstrate that our vehicle launchings over the past few years have really caught on with the public. Our customers have really appreciated the new Acadia and Terrain. They are on



2014 GMC Acadia

track to have their best sales years ever."

Goebel said GMC launched the 2014 Sierra last summer and it has been a huge sales success. GMC will be launching the new Canyon mid-size pickup in the summer of 2014.

"We're really encouraged by the results of our recent launches," he said, "and by the products we will have come out in the next few months."

The Ford F-150 pickup with the

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Hinrichs Honored for Arthritis Fundraising

A crowd of 350 people was on hand to see Joseph Hinrichs honored at the Tribute to Excellence event for his work in raising \$250,000 to support the Arthritis Foundation.

Hinrichs is executive vice president and president of the Americas at Ford.

"As honoree of the event, Mr. Hinrichs agreed to approach his colleagues within the auto industry as well his family and friends to lend their collective support to the Arthritis Foundation, Michigan," said Arthritis Foundation spokesman Chris Cahill.

Hinrichs was able to raise \$250,000 for the foundation this year, Cahill said. As a surprise to

honor Hinrichs, the foundation brought his childhood hero and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin to congratulate him.

The former Ohio State running back appeared in a room filled with University of Michigan and Michigan State University fans.

He was met with a mixture of lighthearted cheers and jeers that was quickly followed by resounding applause after Griffin lauded Hinrichs for his dedication to family, community and industry.

Tribute to Excellence is the Arthritis Foundation's annual program that recognizes and cel-

ebrates community and business leaders whose work helps those with arthritis, Cahill said.

The event also raises money to help support the Foundation's programs, services and research that help people who are saddled with arthritis.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability and industrial absenteeism in the United States, making it a major concern for manufacturers.

More than 50 million Americans suffer from arthritis, including 2.3 million adults and 10,300 children in Michigan (31 percent of the population).

"Joe has never forgotten his roots – his roots of supporting



Football great Archie Griffin with Joseph Hinrichs and Steve Garagiola.

the communities where we came from," said Matt Simoncini, who is president and CEO of Lear Corporation and co-chair of this

year's Tribute to Excellence.

The event was emceed by Steve Garagiola from WDIV Channel 4.

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