

President Obama spoke at MCC about his education proposal.

## President Visits MCC, Touts Education and Auto Industry

by Jim Stickford

President Barack Obama returned to Macomb Community College on Sept. 9 to talk about his plan to make a community college education available to everyone at no cost. The president first visited MCC's Warren campus back in

2009. He returned, he said, to announce the formation of a new independent College Advisory Board. It will be chaired by Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden and herself a community college professor. It will be co-chaired by former Republican

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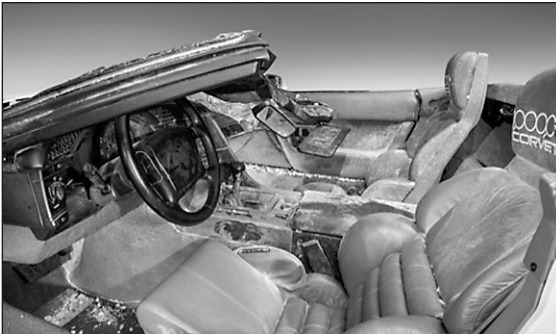
## Restoration Complete on 1 Millionth Corvette

After more than four months and 1,200 man-hours of painstaking craftsmanship, restoration of the milestone 1 millionth Corvette – a white 1992 convertible – is complete. It was unveiled Sept. 3 at the National Corvette Museum, where it returns as part of the permanent exhibit, said GM spokesman Monte Doran. The car was damaged on Feb. 12, 2014, when it and seven other rare Corvettes tumbled into a sinkhole that opened beneath the museum's Skydome area. "We felt it was important to restore this extremely significant car in Corvette's long, storied history," said Mark Reuss, General Motors executive vice president, Global Product Development, Purchasing and Supply Chain. "When we disassembled it, we found that each employee

involved in building it had signed a part of the car, which was fantastic and moving to see. It brought the history to life, and reinforced the importance of the project." After recovery from the sinkhole, the 1 millionth Corvette was moved from the museum to the Design Center on GM's Technical Center campus in Warren for restoration. Approximately 30 craftspeople and technicians from GM Design's Mechanical Assembly group, along with GM Service Operations, took on the project, Doran said. Mechanical Assembly and the Fabrication Shops at GM Design build concept vehicles and maintain GM's historic vehicle collection. "As the one and only 1 millionth Corvette, its preservation was important to us as the designers of the vehicle – and as

Corvette enthusiasts," said Ed Welburn, vice president of GM Global Design. "The damage was significant in many ways; however we have one of the most highly skilled specialty shops and team of people in the industry, so they were fully prepared to take on the challenge." Despite extensive damage, the team, represented by UAW locals 160 and 1869, vowed to preserve and repair as many original components as possible – a decision that involved posterity as much as history, Doran said. That's because under the skin, the 1 millionth Corvette carried all those signatures from the Bowling Green Assembly workers who built the car. Only two signed components couldn't be saved, so the team

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The National Corvette Museum shows the before and after of efforts to restore vehicles hurt in a cave-in.

## New Material Gives Consumers Seat Options

There's good news for consumers who like the feel of leather seats, but don't want to pay for a lot of extras to get it. A recent J.D. Power study, the quality of synthetic leather materials used on new vehicle seats has gotten so good that new-vehicle owners often don't know or can't tell if their vehicle's seats are leather or leatherette – a synthetic leather-like material – according to the J.D. Power 2015 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study released in late August. The study provides automotive manufacturers and suppliers with quality and satisfaction information related to seating systems, said Brent Gruber, director of Global Automotive at J.D. Power. New-vehicle owners are asked to rate the quality of their vehicle's seats and seat belts with regard to whether they have experienced defects/malfunctions or design problems during the first 90 days of ownership. Consumer responses indicate that leather and leatherette have such a similar look, feel and durability that it's difficult to tell the difference between the two, Gruber said. That's beneficial to both automakers, who can offer leatherette at a fraction of the cost of leather, and consumers, who save money without compromising the luxury and quality associated with leather. "It's really a compliment to the suppliers that they can produce a synthetic material that customers indicate looks and feels so much like leather that they often times cannot tell the difference, despite automakers marketing the leatherette as a synthetic leather-like material," said Gruber. "And it's not just the look and feel that makes it difficult for

owners to differentiate between the two: the quality and durability are also very similar. Leather is viewed as a premium product that, in addition to its upscale look and feel, offers added scuff and soil resistance over cloth seating. Leatherette provides similar benefits to those provided by leather, yet at a reduced cost to manufacturers and owners and without a decline in quality or customer satisfaction." Many of today's entry-level luxury vehicles offer leatherette as standard seating material, with leather only available in upgraded trim levels, Gruber said. Among owners of one midsize premium car model, 94 percent indicate their vehicle has leather seats; however, given owners' survey responses regarding the trim level of their vehicle, approximately 13 percent of these owners actually have leatherette. In another example, 79 percent of owners of a mass market midsize car say their vehicle has leather seats when in fact 41 percent of

them most likely have leatherette given the vehicle's trim level. Gruber admitted to being surprised by the results of the study. "I guess it's because I remember the faux leather seat material used in the 1970s," Gruber said. "You could tell just by looking at it that it was fake. They've made such improvements since that time and it shows in this study." Gruber said that people who want the benefit of having something that looks premium would, in the past, have to get leather seats, which are often bundled with other premium features that many didn't want. The faux leather gives consumers options that can help keep the cost of a car down. In the midsize premium car segment, where both options are frequently offered, models that offer both seat material options receive similar satisfaction ratings for their seats in comparison with models that offer only leather seats, Gruber said. Models that offer both



Faux leather and real leather seats offer buyers options.

leatherette and leather seat options actually perform slightly higher (0.06 points) for the feel of the seat material than models that offer authentic leather seats

only (9.00 vs. 8.94, respectively, on a 10-point scale), but this highlights the fact that owners

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



The 2015 JDRF Walk at the Tech Center is almost upon us.

## GM Tech Center Holds JDRF Annual 'Walk for a Cure'

Timothy Herbert Financial Group, for the fourth year in a row, has agreed to be a sponsor of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) for the 2015 Walk to Cure Diabetes. The walk will take place Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015 at the GM Tech Center in Warren from 8:30 – 11:30 am. Joining the movement to find a cure for this disease has always been a cause close to the heart of Tim Herbert, founder of Timo-

thy Herbert Financial Group, said company spokeswoman Liz Kaadou. "Tim spent sixteen years working at General Motors before he opened his own financial company specializing in GM and automotive retirement planning," Kaadou said. "Throughout his entire career, Tim knew that one day he wanted to join the fight to find a cure for diabetes. His

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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## Soave Family Providing Free Mammograms

The Anthony L. Soave Family Mobile Mammography unit will be providing free mammogram screenings at St. Jude Catholic Church's Food Pantry, 15879 E. Seven Mile in Harper Woods, on Thursday, Nov. 5 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The service is provided in conjunction with St. John Providence Hospital and is open to any woman 40 years or older. There is no charge, but women are asked to provide their health insurance information. To register, please contact Lynn McEachin in the St. Jude Parish office at 313-527-0380, Ext. 222.

## JDRF Walk Set to Begin at GM Tech Center

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

younger brother John is one of the 366 million people around the world suffering from juvenile diabetes and he has been battling this disease for years. Tim sees firsthand the trials and tribulations his brother must cope with each and every day to survive, including testing his blood sugar 6 or more times a day."

Last year, the Herbert team raised over \$5,500 for the foundation, Kaadou said.

According to JDRF statistics, in the U.S. alone, a new case of diabetes is diagnosed every 30 seconds, meaning more than 1.9 million people are diagnosed each year. Since its founding in 1970, JDRF has awarded more than \$1.6 billion to diabetes research.

"Mr. Herbert is grateful that his brother has a chance for a longer survival, but he doesn't consider the job complete until a cure has been found," Kaadou said.

"Each and every person living with this disease deserves a life free from diabetes. I can only hope that by raising funds for this lifesaving foundation, they can move one step closer to finding a cure", says Timothy Herbert.

The Walk to Cure Diabetes is JDRF's largest national fundraising event to help raise funds to accelerate progress toward the most promising opportunities to cure, treat and prevent Type 1 Diabetes.

More than 80 percent of JDRF's expenditures directly support research and research-related education.

To join the Timothy Herbert Financial Group in their walk to cure diabetes or make a donation, visit [www.timothyherbert.com](http://www.timothyherbert.com) and click on the Giving Back page.

The Timothy Herbert Financial Group isn't the only Detroit business to support the walk.

According to JDRF, Ford Motor Company has been a JDRF Elite Partner since 1983. In 1998, Ford expanded its support with the creation of the employee-driven Ford Global Action Team (FGAT) that brought the power of Ford employees, families, and friends, as well as key business partners from WPP, Mazda, BP, ADESA,

# President Visits MCC Touts Education and Auto Industry

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

governor of Wyoming Jim Geringer.

Biden spoke to the crowd at MCC's sports pavillion before the president. She said that as a community college professor, she's seen what an education can do for students. And community colleges are flexible, which helps students with jobs and families upgrade their skills.

Biden then introduced the president, who was met with a warm reception by the crowd.

Obama said the College Advisory Board he was creating will "work with business and charities and colleges and labor groups and nonprofits to make sure every young person who works hard gets a shot at a great education. And if you want more information, because we're going to need grassroots for this idea, go to [HeadsUpAmerica.us](http://HeadsUpAmerica.us). If you want a great shot a good-paying job, then community college might be the right path for you. And if you work hard, then community college should be free."

Obama went on to say that he wants students to attend great community colleges and that MCC "is one of the best, most innovative community colleges in the country."

Under the leadership of college president Jim Jacobs, Obama said, MCC makes it possible for its students to work directly

with local employers and labor unions to make sure students get the skills they need to get good jobs.

Obama said this is needed "because education is the 'secret sauce, the secret to America's success.'" More than 150 years ago, Abraham Lincoln helped establish land grant college all across America. About 100 years ago, we started moving from an agrarian economy, a farm economy, to an industrial economy. And we became the first country in the world to say that every child deserves a shot at a high school education, even if they weren't born rich.

"And it's because we were ahead of the curve that we ended up having the most educated workforce. And that was good for the entire economy and good for businesses."

But times have changed, Obama said. Other countries have caught up and even surpassed the United States. This has happened at a time when the very nature of the economy has changed. Gone are the days when a man could go to a car factory and say that he's strong and willing to work hard, and he would get a job that would propel him to the middle class.

Obama quoted statistics that demonstrated the value of education to the average American. His said that compared to those with a high school diploma, col-

lege graduates earn about \$1 million more over the course of their lifetimes.

"That's a lot of money, a million dollars, even today," Obama said. "If you have a degree from a two-year college, you earn \$10,000 a year more than somebody who only finished high school. One study found that over their lifetimes, workers who complete an on-the-job apprenticeship earn around \$300,000 more than their peers who didn't go through an apprenticeship program."

Obama went on to say that by the end of the decade, two in three job openings will require some form of post-secondary education, some form of higher education.

"Now you don't have to necessarily go to a four-year to get a good job, but you have to have some sort of specialized skill in order for you to advance," Obama said.

Obama said this should be a bi-partisan issue.

"I want to work with folks back in Washington, both Democrats

and Republicans, to pass a responsible budget that invests in you. And by the way, in my original budget what I said was it does cost some money to make two years of community college free. I said, well, the federal government will help states and counties and local communities, and we'll pay for it by closing up some of these corporate loopholes that don't help grow the economy and aren't fair anyway."

These's been resistance, Obama said. But the idea is spreading across many states. He noted that Tennessee is enrolling 15,000 students in its community college program and "not one of them had to take out a loan to pay for tuition."

Ultimately, supporting community college education is a win for everyone. Obama said. People get the skills they need for a good job and businesses get the skilled labor they need for jobs that exist now.

"Everybody deserves a chance to make it," Obama said. "Everybody deserves opportunity and hope and dreams and a future."



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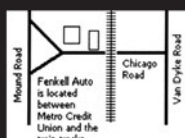


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The before and after shots show just how much work technicians had to do to restore the 1 millionth 'Vette.

## Restoration Complete on 1 Millionth Corvette

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had the autographs scanned, reproduced as transfers and placed on the replacement parts. "We went to great lengths to preserve every autograph," said David Bolognino, director of GM Global Design Fabrication Operations. "In the end, we saved every one of them, which was an unexpected and important element to the restoration."

One component with a single signature from Bowling Green Assembly employee Angela Lamb was too damaged to save or even accurately scan for her autograph. Chevrolet worked with the National Corvette Museum to secure a new signature from Lamb on the replacement part, Doran said so the 1-millionth Corvette will be historically accurate down to the last signature.

Among the parts replaced were the hood, front fascia and the lower panels between the front wheels and doors, as well as a number of ancillary supporting components under the hood. The replacements came from a vehicle of the same vintage and color, ensuring authenticity of the parts and materials involved with the restoration.

A few other components, such as the rear fascia and front exhaust system, would have probably been replaced in almost any other restoration project, but the team repaired them because they were also covered in signatures.

Additional highlights from the restoration:

- The front sub-frame was damaged in the fall into the sinkhole and required straightening.
- The wheels were damaged, but reconditioned, with the original Goodyear Eagle GS-C tires.
- Rather than replace the scuffed and scratched pad on the instrument panel, its soft cover was carefully removed and re-

placed to preserve the employee-designed structure beneath it.

- The red leather seats, featuring one-off "1,000,000th Corvette" embroidery on the headrests were damaged but deemed irreplaceable, so they were restored, including a few replacement patches of carefully matched hide.
- The 5.7L LT1 engine, transmission and other drivetrain components were inspected and found to be damage-free.

Surprisingly, Doran said, the one component the team didn't have to replace was the crushed windshield header. When the car first rolled into the shop, an overhead crane was used to raise it enough to make the car drivable, but the frame pulled up surprisingly close to the original position, encouraging the team to save it.

"The header restoration was a wonderful surprise for what everyone assumed would be the toughest aspect of the restora-

tion," said Bolognino. "With access to the original specifications, we got it spot-on – and even the new windshield glass dropped in perfectly."

The final touch was replacing the unique "1,000,000th" windshield banner it wore when it rolled off the assembly line 23 years ago.

The computer graphic file used for the original was still available, allowing creation of an identical banner, Doran said.

The 1 millionth Corvette is the second sinkhole-damaged Corvette that Chevrolet has restored.

The first, a 2009 Corvette ZR1 prototype known as the Blue Devil, was only lightly damaged and was returned to its original condition last fall. The National Corvette Museum will oversee the restoration of a third car, a 1962 Corvette.

The other five Corvettes swallowed by the sinkhole will remain in their as-recovered state.

## City of Warren Gears Up for the 7th Annual College Fair

The city of Warren will be holding its seventh annual College Fair on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Warren city hall located at One City Square.

The fair is from 6 to 8 p.m. and open to all students and their parents and guardians interested in learning more about how to get into college and just what options are available to today's high schoolers.

"I am personally inviting all students interested in pursuing higher education to attend the seventh annual Warren College Fair," said Warren mayor James Fouts. "Representatives from colleges and universities will be available to discuss how their programs can meet your educational goals. I hope to see you there."

Fouts said he initiated the idea of the city hosting a college fair as a time-saver for students and their parents. The fair allows them to visit just one location and learn about such issues as financial aid, curriculum and the overall costs associated with attending college.

In past years, between one thousand and two thousand people have attended the fair, according to city officials.

Fouts said that schools both from Michigan and around the country will be represented at the fair, as well as a couple of schools from Canada.

Among the schools and institutions that will be at the fair are:

- Adrian College;
- Albion College;
- Aquinas College;
- Aress Networking Academy;
- Baldwin-Wallace College;
- Ball State University;
- Central Michigan University;
- College of Creative Studies;
- Eastern Michigan University;
- Ferris State University;
- Grand Valley State University;
- Indiana University, Purdue University Indianapolis;
- Kendall College of Art & Design;
- Lake Superior State University;
- Lawrence Technical University;
- Macomb Community College;
- Madonna University, Macomb Campus;
- Marygrove College;
- The Michigan Air National Guard;
- Michigan State University;
- Michigan Technical University;
- Northern Mich. University;
- Oakland University;
- Rochester College;
- U-D Mercy;
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# Lingenfelter Collection to be Aired on TV

Lights, camera, action. Today, Sept. 14, a local classic car collection made its debut on the Velocity Network's automotive enthusiast TV show "Car Crazy".

The show will feature an in-depth look at one of the most outstanding car collections in the world and explore the unique story of the man responsible for this dream garage, said Lingenfelter spokeswoman Becky Shephard.

The Lingenfelter Collection, assembled and curated by Ken Lingenfelter, owner of Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, Shephard said, and is housed in a 40,000-square-foot building filled with a continually-evolving roster of more than 200 unique and historically significant American muscle cars, Corvettes and late-

model exotics, including a Bugatti Veyron, a Lamborghini Reventon and eight Ferraris, including a 2015 LaFerrari.

The collection's diversity comes from Lingenfelter's wide-ranging automotive interests and is comprised of cars he likes, Shephard said. Corvettes both old and new are an integral part of the Collection which includes a '53 Supercharged Corvette, the first supercharged Corvette, (one of two ever produced and the only one believed to still be in existence); the '54 Duntov Test Mule, which is considered the first true high performance Corvette as well as Lingenfelter Performance Engineering's new Level One and Level Two tuned C7 Z06s.

This private collection is not only a showcase of some of the

coolest cars ever, Shephard said, but it is also serves a more significant purpose – helping others. Lingenfelter uses the collection as a unique venue for public tours and special events in order to generate financial support for a number of important charitable organizations through The Lingenfelter Foundation.

Over the years, Shephard said collection events have raised funds for breast cancer, juvenile diabetes, youth organizations as well as several other worthwhile causes.

As a quintessential "car guy", Shephard said that Lingenfelter has a deep appreciation for stylish, high-performance automobiles, and he puts that passion into his work as the owner of Lingenfelter Performance Engineering, a leading automotive performance engineering brand with a worldwide reputation for creating performance-tuned GM vehicles, engines and aftermarket components.

The "Car Crazy" episode, Shephard said, explores the synergy between Lingenfelter's drive to create excellent high-performance aftermarket products and his tenacious pursuit of the world's finest collectible automobiles and it airs beginning on Sept. 14 on Discovery's Velocity TV channel.

For further details, visit car-crazycentral.com, Shephard said. Since 1973, Lingenfelter Performance Engineering has created a heritage of bringing new capabilities to the world's most



Ken Lingenfelter, left, with "Car Crazy" TV show host Barry Meguiar.

sought-after sports cars, Shephard said. This record of precision engineering continues today, as the highly skilled Lingenfelter production team continues

to target design excellence in engine packages, superchargers and high-performance aftermarket components that refine power, speed and control.

## Self-Driving Automobile Technology Makes Strides

DETROIT (AP) – Fully self-driving cars are a few years into the future. But some of the technology that will make them possible is already here.

Automakers are rapidly adding radar- and camera-based systems that can keep a car in its lane, detect pedestrians and brake automatically to avoid a collision. For now, they work with a driver behind the wheel, but eventually, versions of these systems will likely power self-driving cars.

Semi-autonomous features used to be confined to luxury cars, but they're quickly migrating to mainstream brands as technology gets cheaper. Toyota, for example, will offer automatic braking, pedestrian detection and lane departure warning for just a few hundred dollars on all of its vehicles by 2017.

Automakers are also being nudged to add these features by safety advocates like the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, which gives its top crashworthiness rankings to vehicles with crash prevention technology.

Joseph Gerardi, a communications engineer from Centereach, New York, recently bought a 2015 Nissan Murano specifically for its semi-autonomous safety technology. As part of its \$2,260 technology package, Nissan offers emergency braking and adaptive cruise control. The package also has forward collision warning, which uses radar to monitor both the car ahead and the car in front of that one.

Gerardi's wife, Michele, and 4-

year-old daughter, Caroline, use the SUV to get around town, so he wanted the most technology he could get for under \$40,000.

"We just wanted to get the safest thing possible," he said.

He thinks more people would push for semi-autonomous technology if automakers promoted it, or if dealers had a better understanding of how it works. Gerardi had to call Nissan, for example, to get a complete explanation of the Murano's emergency braking system.

Not everyone likes the self-driving trend.

"I really, really dislike automobiles that think they're cleverer than me," said Will Inglis, who lives outside London and writes about the defense industry. He thinks drivers will come to rely too much on semi-autonomous technology and driving skills will degrade.

But people like Inglis may soon be in the minority. In a recent U.S. survey by the Boston Consulting Group, 55 percent of drivers said they would likely buy a partially autonomous car in the next five years.

The array of semi-autonomous features now offered on cars can be bewildering. Here are some of the most common:

- Adaptive cruise control: Regular cruise control, which has been around for decades, can keep the car at a set speed on the highway. Adaptive cruise control maintains a set speed as well as a set distance from the car in front of it, and it can slow down or speed up automatically. It started appearing on luxury brands like Mercedes and Lexus about a decade ago. Now, it's available on less expensive models, like the Mazda3 small car and the Chrysler 200 sedan.
- Lane keeping: Lane departure warning systems beep or vibrate if the driver leaves a lane. Camera-based lane-keeping systems actually steer the car back into the lane automatically. They have their limits; they might not work in snow or at other times when lane markings aren't clearly visible. Lane keeping started appearing in 2014. Among the vehicles that offer it are the Ford Fusion Titanium, as a \$1,200 option, and the Jeep Renegade Limited, as a \$995 option.
- Emergency braking: Some forward collision warning systems beep or flash lights to warn the driver if they detect an object. More advanced ones warn the driver and, if the driver doesn't react, apply the brakes. The systems may either bring the car to a complete stop or slow it enough to mitigate damage. The technology, introduced in 2008, is recommended by the federal government. It's already standard on the Volvo XC90 SUV, which can even brake automatically as the driver is turning into an intersection.

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# Ford, Spielberg Join Forces

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) – Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg and Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford announced Sept. 10 they are partnering to expand a multimedia program for Detroit-area students designed to foster tolerance.

The program is an extension of the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation, which was founded by Spielberg and uses visual testimonies from survivors to educate people about the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Shoah Foundation runs IWitness, an educational website that provides access to more than 1,500 full life histories and testimonies of survivors and witnesses of genocides.

Ford Motor's \$180,000 gift will help expand IWitness to more

schools in the Detroit area.

The donation also will sponsor for the next two years USC Shoah's IWitness Video Challenge, which invites students to produce a video inspired by the survivors' testimonies that tells the story of how the students have contributed to making their communities a better place.

"My dream, through the USC Shoah Foundation, is someday to have programs like IWitness become prerequisites for graduating high school – for tolerance education to be folded into the social science study program in public high schools and private schools everywhere around this nation," Spielberg said at the press announcement.

About 450 teachers in Michigan already use IWitness, said Kori Street, USC Shoah Foundation's director of education.

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# Mustang a ‘True’ World Car

The Ford Mustang took what might be considered the final step to being a true world car in September.

Production of the right-hand-drive Mustang model is officially underway at Flat Rock Assembly Plant in Flat Rock, continuing the car’s first-ever global launch.

This is the first year Mustang is available to customers in more than 100 markets around the world – including those where motorists drive on the left side of the road, said Ford spokeswoman Amanda Park.

Customers around the world have made Ford Mustang the best-selling sports car on the globe during the first half of the year, according to global IHS Automotive registration data, said Park.

During the first six months of 2015, customers globally registered 76,124 vehicles – a 56 percent increase versus the same period last year.

“Initial global response to the Mustang has been strong, and we are only in second gear,” said Stephen Odell, executive vice president, Global Marketing, Sales and Service. “We continue accelerating production and global reach with right-hand-

drive models now coming out of the plant.”

The addition of a right-hand-drive Mustang to Ford’s global vehicle lineup allows export to more than 25 of those markets around the globe, including the UK, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, as well as Cyprus, Malta and a smattering of Caribbean islands. Odell said.

Sales in the U.S. and Asia began last winter, and Mustangs made their way to European markets this summer, Odell said. In the U.S., Mustang sales were up 70 percent in August, overtaking the Chevy Camaro for best-selling sports car in the U.S., based on Ford reported sales data.

New buyers are driving U.S. sales growth, especially in regions such as Southern California – the largest sports car market in the country, according to IHS – where Mustang retail sales have more than doubled this year, Odell said. While Mustang is a new entry into the China market, it is already one of the nation’s top-selling sports cars, with hottest sales in Beijing, Guangdong and Shanghai.

Models are just starting to hit dealerships in Europe, with customers awaiting delivery of the



The Michigan-made Mustang now comes in a right-handed edition.

first right-hand-drive models in markets such as the UK. Almost 2,000 Ford Mustang orders have been taken in the UK since January. First customer deliveries are expected in November, with extra supply secured to meet the greater-than-expected demand, Odell said.

Customer anticipation for Mustang in Europe was obvious last year, Odell said, when Ford opened pre-ordering for 500 Mustangs during the 2014 UEFA Champions League finals; customers filled the pre-order list in mere minutes.

Another right-hand-drive market eagerly awaiting units is Australia, where nearly 3,000 orders

already have been received. Four hundred orders have been received in New Zealand, another right-hand-drive market where customer deliveries begin this fall.

And, Odell said, which colors are most popular among all-new Mustang customers? Initial sales show that in Europe, Magnetic Grey and Race Red are the most popular exterior paint color choices. Race Red is also the top choice for customers in China, followed by Black. Meanwhile, Black takes the top spot in both the U.S. and the Middle East.

# Fiat Chrysler Has Truck Recall Over Electrical Trouble

DETROIT (AP) – Fiat Chrysler is recalling more than 1.7 million trucks to fix problems with air bags and welds in the steering system.

The biggest of three recalls, announced Sept. 10, covers 1.35 million Ram 1500, 2500 and 3500 pickup trucks and 3500, 4500 and 5500 Chassis Cabs, mainly in North America. All are from the 2012 through 2014 model years.

Fiat Chrysler says a company investigation found that some trucks may have steering wheel electrical wires that can wear due to contact with a spring. That can cause a short circuit that could make the driver’s side air bags inflate without a crash.

The company says it knows of two injuries caused by the problem but no crashes. It says an analysis of warranty data found that less than 1 percent of trucks fixed for the problem had air bags that inflated without a crash. In some trucks, an air bag warning light will come on before there’s a problem.

# Hacker Tech Presents OEMs Challenges

Along with technological advances in connected and autonomous vehicles has come an increase in associated cybersecurity risks, a daunting challenge the auto industry is working hard to find solutions to with significant challenges still ahead, according to PwC’s Global State of Information Security Survey (GSISS).

Even with the cybersecurity conversation front and center, and the industry increasing its

focus on implications, incident frequency and type continue to increase, according to the survey of a 173 worldwide automotive leaders.

The number of cybersecurity incidents detected in 2014 climbed 32 percent from the prior year, with cited offenders ranging from current and former employees to external service providers, contractors and suppliers.

Employees are the most-cited

source of incidents, but hacktivists and activists lead the list of increased incidents with 84 percent more incidents being attributed to them in 2014 compared to the previous year.

But, automotive leaders are increasingly concerned that competitors are infiltrating their networks to pilfer trade secrets, product designs and communications as the number of these incidents more than doubled in 2014 versus 2013.



Chrysler employees start work on the 1,000,001 948TE transmission.

# Chrysler Enjoys Another Engine Making Milestone

Just two months after producing the one millionth TorqueFlite eight-speed automatic transmission, Fiat Chrysler facilities in Indiana celebrated another milestone – production of the one millionth 948TE nine-speed automatic – and officially welcomed it into the TorqueFlite transmission family.

Fiat Chrysler North America vice president of Manufacturing Brian Harlow, on Sept. 3, joined by the company’s vice president of Transmission Powertrain Jeffrey Lux, acknowledged the achievement during employee events today at both the Indiana Transmission Plant I (ITPI) and the Tipton Transmission Plant, where the nine-speed has been built since May 2013.

“Five years ago, when Chrysler Group announced that it would build the nine-speed automatic transmission in Indiana, it was a huge vote of confidence in the skills, knowledge and expertise of our local workforce, especially because ITPI would be the first plant ever to build the nine-speed,” said Harlow. “This was a significant challenge, but an even greater opportunity. There was a lot riding on our employees’ ability to deliver.”

“Today, as we celebrate the one millionth nine-speed produced, I can honestly say that everyone involved rose to the challenge and exceeded expectations,” Harlow continued. “You have proven that our decision to invest here was a wise one and demonstrated what makes this workforce one of the best in the business.”

Along with recognizing the dedication of its employees, the company chose this opportunity to also introduce the nine-speed

automatic transmission as the newest member of the TorqueFlite family, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tinson.

The TorqueFlite automatic transmission has a long history, dating back to 1956. First introduced in Imperial models, TorqueFlite transmissions were known for having superior performance while also being extremely tough and reliable, Tinson said. The new nine-speed embodies those same characteristics, but in a modern day package, deserving of the TorqueFlite name.

“Our TorqueFlite nine-speed transmissions deliver superior performance in a broad range of driving environments both on road and off road,” said Lux. “We’re extremely proud to hit the first milestone and look forward to engineering and building millions more for our customers.”

Plans for nine-speed automatic transmission production were confirmed in November 2010. FCA US, then known as Chrysler Group, announced that it was partnering with Friedrichshafen, Germany-based ZF Group, which was making its nine-speed designs and technology available to the company and its Kokomo plants.

The company also announced that it would invest nearly \$850 million in its existing transmission manufacturing facilities in Kokomo to produce the new advanced front-wheel drive automatic transmission.

Not quite three years later, Tinson said, the company announced that it would invest \$162 million to open a new facility to produce the nine-speed in Tipton, Ind., creating up to 850 new jobs.

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# Consumers Like Leatherette

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

perceive little difference between the two seating materials.

Owners of midsize premium car models that offer both leatherette and leather seat options report slightly more problems with seat materials scuff/soil easily than owners of models that offer only leather seats—1.6 problems per 100 vehicles (PP100) vs. 0.9 PP100, respectively—but report no problems related to seat material imperfections, while owners of models that offer only leather seats report an average of 0.2 PP100.

**“Leather is viewed as a premium product.... Leatherette provides similar benefits.”**

**— Brent Gruber**

Among owners of midsize premium cars, overall satisfaction with the vehicle's seats, the driver seat, styling of the seats and comfort of the driver's seat bottom cushion is higher among owners of models that offer both leatherette and leather seats than among those whose model offers leather seats only.

The overall industry average for seat-related problems is 8.3 PP100 in 2015, an improvement of 0.8 PP100 from 2014.

On average, overall satisfaction with the ease of adjusting driver seat to desired position is 8.12; however, when more power-adjustable features are added to the seat, satisfaction increases,

Gruber said. When power-adjustable sliding, reclining, height, and memory seats are added, satisfaction increases to 8.68.

Designing seats to accommodate the range of consumer sizes continues to be an issue for seat suppliers. Owners who are 5 feet 3 inches tall or shorter experience more seat-related problems than average (9.7 PP100 vs. 8.1 PP100, respectively), specifically with the seat height adjustment and headrest adjustment. Owners who weigh less than 135 pounds or more than 239 pounds report more seat problems than the rest of the industry (8.6 PP100 and 10.2 PP100 vs. 7.9 PP100, respectively).

Johnson Controls, Inc. receives two segment awards for seat quality, while Hanil E-Hwa, Lear Corporation, Magna, Toyo Seat and TS Tech Co., Ltd. receive one award each.

Johnson Controls, Inc. ranks highest in the luxury SUV segment for its seats in the Land Rover Range Rover Evoque and in the mass market midsize/large car segment for the Kia Cadenza.

Hanil E-Hwa ranks highest in the mass market midsize/large SUV segment for the Hyundai Santa Fe. Lear Corporation ranks highest in the mass market truck/van segment for the Chevrolet Silverado LD. Magna ranks highest in the mass market compact SUV/MPV for the Ford C-Max. Toyo Seat ranks highest in the mass market compact car segment for the Mazda MX-5 Miata. TS Tech Co., Ltd. ranks highest in the luxury car segment for the Acura RLX.

The 2015 Seat Quality and Satisfaction Study is based on responses from 84,367 purchasers and lessees of new 2015 model-year cars and light trucks. The study was fielded from February through May 2015.

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# Faurecia Employees Collect Food for Local Food Banks

Across North America, employees of automotive supplier Faurecia are gearing up for the company's annual community food drive during the month of September, an initiative started in 2010 that has grown every year since.

FUELS, which stands for Faurecia Unites with Employees for Local Service, has provided more than 3.5 million meals to thousands of families in need throughout Canada, Mexico and the U.S. – an accomplishment achieved through teamwork and a passion for giving back to the communities Faurecia calls home, said Faurecia spokeswoman Jessica Sader.

This year marks the sixth consecutive year of FUELS, a month-long drive supported by Faurecia's more than 20,000 employees at 47 locations, collecting non-perishable food items and money to nourish neighborhoods across North America, Sader said. Faurecia employees in Metro Detroit have partnered with Gleaners Community Food Bank to help those in need. All donations for FUELS, food and monetary, are measured by the number of meals they produce.

One pound of food is equal to one meal, and \$1 is equal to three meals. Last year, employees helped donate 1.12 million meals.

To maximize the success and effectiveness of FUELS, Faurecia teams up with local food banks in the communities where the company has a presence, Sader said. Each participating site works closely with its food bank partner to understand the specific needs of that neighborhood and to ensure Faurecia's efforts are as impactful as possible.

In addition to food and monetary contributions, many employees donate time during scheduled volunteer days at their partner food banks.

"It's inspiring to see Faurecia's employees continue to demonstrate such a high level of enthusiasm and involvement with charitable initiatives such as FUELS," said Mark Stidham, president of Faurecia North America. "This year's 'Nourish our Neighborhoods' theme encapsulates all of the great work our teams are doing to help our neighbors thrive. When the company comes together, it shows that we are serious about our roles as corporate citizens and devoted to making a positive difference in communities across North America."

In years past, Faurecia's sites have competed with each other to foster teamwork and good-spirited competition for this important cause, Sader said.

This year, Faurecia will take a creative twist on the competition. The winner of the 2015 FUELS challenge will be the site that beats its own 2014 food collection record by the highest percentage. Faurecia will donate \$1,000 to the food bank partner of each site that meets its goal,

plus \$5,000 to the food bank of the most successful site in the U.S./Canada and in Mexico, Sader said.

The FUELS program is one example of Faurecia's service and volunteer initiatives through its business groups and individual team members.

Its ongoing efforts include a dedication to STEM, providing shelter, ending hunger and participating in other charitable partnerships. The FUELS initiative, started by Faurecia North America in 2010, is now a global Faurecia program, inspiring a number of countries outside North America, including China, France, Germany, India and Spain, with other countries to join the program this year.

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## GM Issuing New Cadillac Recall

DETROIT (AP) – GM is recalling about 121,000 Cadillacs because the rear window defroster control can overheat and catch fire. The recall, announced Sept. 9, covers ATS small sports sedans from the 2013 to 2016 model years sold mainly in North America.

GM says it has four reports of fires but no injuries. The company says the problem happens because of a weak electrical connection in the module that powers the defroster, located in the driver's side rear pillar.