

Camaro, Colorado Earn Motor Trend Top Spots

The new Gen Six Chevrolet Camaro and the Chevrolet Colorado with its all-new 2.8L Duramax turbo-diesel engine have won the 2016 *Motor Trend* Car and Truck of the Year awards.

It is the second consecutive Truck of the Year award for Colorado, the mid-size pickup introduced as a 2015 model.

Motor Trend editors praised the Camaro for its lighter weight, which contributes to “world-class sports car performance and dynamics,” they wrote.

The editors’ selection of the new Camaro and Colorado as the Car and Truck of the Year surprised even them.

Jonny Lieberman, author of *Motor Trend’s* story about the award, wrote, “Before we started, had you asked any of us nine judges if the 2016 Chevrolet Camaro had a snowball’s chance in Hyundai’s desert proving grounds of winning our 2016 Car of the Year honors, almost all of us would have said no.

“Most of us would have been surprised to even see the Camaro as a finalist – except for Angus MacKenzie, who told me: ‘On paper, it looked strong against a number of the criteria.

If it drove well, it was in with a real shot.’ May we all be as wise. Still, it’s a flippin’ Camaro, man, forever destined to live in the shadow of the horsey from Dearborn, the Ford Mustang. The other ponycar as our Car of the Year? Fat chance.”

Motor Trend judges noted that the sixth-generation Camaro was quite an accomplishment and that the RS V6 3.6-liter Camaro’s eight-speed automatic transmission offered “really great calibration.”

Judges also had kind things to say about the six-cylinder’s performance, saying it handled better than the Cadillac ATS.

Judges said that as good as the V6 is, the V8 is even better.

“Pouring forth from its glorious naturally aspirated, 6.2-liter LT1 V8 are 455 hp and 455 lb.-ft. of torque,” Lieberman wrote. “All that get up and go is transmitted to the sticky rear tires via a lovely-shifting six-speed manual transmission. To say we liked this car is a severe understatement.”

Judges also appreciated the value Camaro drivers get for the buck. They noted that a 275-hp turbo goes for \$27,000, while a 335-hp model costs \$28,500 and a

455-hp Camaro goes for \$37,000.

Motor Trend had equally nice things to say about the 2016 Colorado. In the story announcing the magazine’s choice, Ron Kiino

said that the question many people had was how the Colorado – 2015’s Truck of the Year winner – could repeat. The answer was simple.

“For 2016, the Colorado is available with a 181-horsepower, 2.8-liter inline-four Duramax

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GM executives, from left, Mark Reuss, Al Oppenheiser, Ed Welburn and Alan Batey with award

BIG 3 ARRIVED IN STYLE AT THE L.A. AUTO SHOW



2017 Buick LaCrosse

2017 Buick LaCrosse Grille Inspired by 1954 Concept

Where better to have a bright new face make its debut than Los Angeles, home of the American film industry?

The new 2017 Buick LaCrosse, which “introduces the new face of Buick,” said Buick spokeswoman Crystal Wilson, was influenced by the dramatic cues of the award-winning Avenir concept, and inspired by a Buick concept from the mid-20th century.

With that background, the LaCrosse was introduced Nov. 18 at the L.A. Auto Show.

The LaCrosse, which goes on sale in early summer 2016, features a new grille design with a large opening distinguished by the return of a three-color – red, silver and blue – Buick tri-shield insignia, accented by wing-shaped elements set against darkened waterfall grille bars inspired by the 1954 Wildcat II concept.

“The new LaCrosse is drop-dead gorgeous and signals the

next phase of Buick’s international momentum,” said Duncan Aldred, vice president of Global Buick.

“Its quietness, comfort and connectivity were developed to set new standards in the segment, supported by technologies not offered on competitors such as the Lexus ES.”

Longer, lower and wider than the current model, the 2017 LaCrosse is built on a stronger yet lighter structure, Aldred said. It is about 300 pounds lighter than the current LaCrosse – largely due to the use of press-hardened, high-strength steels – which contribute to greater efficiency and more responsive handling.

The new LaCrosse’s lower weight, Aldred said, is also due in part to new lower mass sound-absorbing materials, including a lightweight dissipative dash mat in place of heavier noise-blocking

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Alfa Romeo Giulia ‘New Benchmark’ – Bigland

Fiat Chrysler says it’s bringing some true Italian style to the North American auto market with the 2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.

As the first of a new generation of vehicles built on the new Giorgio platform that was developed in conjunction with Ferrari, the 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio “embodies Alfa Romeo’s La meccanica delle emozioni (the mechanics of emotion), delivering race-inspired performance, advanced technologies, seductive Italian style and an exhilarating driving experience to the premium mid-size sedan segment,” said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Jiyun Cadiz.

“The all-new Giulia is not just a new car, but an entirely new benchmark that represents the

next chapter in Alfa Romeo’s rich 105-year heritage,” said Reid Bigland, head of Alfa Romeo Brand, FCA – North America.

“With an all-new lightweight platform and class-leading power

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2017 Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio

2017 MKZ Crafted for ‘Ease, Power, Detail’

It was a festive day in Los Angeles for Lincoln Motor Company officials Nov. 18 when they unveiled the newest iteration of the MKZ at the L.A. Auto Show.

“Our customers are looking for three attributes in a luxury mid-size sedan – technologies that ease their everyday experience, a beautiful design that is crafted with attention to detail, and a vehicle with impressive power that makes it a pleasure to drive,” said Kumar Galhotra, president of Lincoln.

“The new Lincoln MKZ elevates all of these attributes – and many more – to create a compelling entry in this large and highly competitive portion of the luxury market.”

The new 2017 MKZ is designed to appeal to those who are looking for something different in

the luxury market, Galhotra said.

From the placement of technology features such as the push-button gear shift to “reimagined”

interior spaces – including the floating center console – drivers,

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Kumar Galhotra with 2017 Lincoln MKZ

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2017 Lincoln MKZ
Crafted for ‘Ease,
Power, Detail’

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said Galhotra, can relish in discovering an unexpected experience based on intelligent function and beautiful form that offers, above all, an enjoyable drive.

The “Lincoln Experience” is brought to life, Galhotra said, through the available Lincoln-exclusive 3.0-liter GTDI V6 engine, as well as intangible elements like the quiet cabin provided by the Active Noise Control system.

Features that make the new Lincoln MKZ “a haven of refined comfort” include, Galhotra said, curated spaces for storage, the availability of three Lincoln Black Label interior packages with exclusive, personal in-home design consultation, available fully retractable panoramic glass roof, and concert-quality Revel audio with specially designed doors for optimal positioning of the speakers.

The 2017 MKZ is designed to make the drive easier and more enjoyable, Galhotra said. Available adaptive cruise control with stop-and-go functionality automatically can slow the car, resuming higher speeds when traffic clears. The system activates the brakes automatically to bring the car to a complete stop if the driver fails to apply brakes in time.

An auto hold feature keeps the car at a complete stop without the driver having to press and hold the brake pedal – making stop-and-go driving more relaxing for MKZ owners, Galhotra said.

Available enhanced park assist uses ultrasonic sensors to help Lincoln MKZ seamlessly steer itself into a parallel or perpendicular parking spot. The car also can assist with getting out of a tight parking space if needed.

Pre-Collision Assist with Pedestrian Detection is an available technology that can help avoid some frontal crashes, or lessen the severity of such events.

A new, Lincoln-exclusive 3.0-liter GTDI V6 leads available engine choices for the new Lincoln MKZ, Galhotra said. When paired with an intelligent all-wheel-drive system, the twin-turbocharged engine produces 400 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque for effortless performance and refinement, he said.

Other features include Dynamic Torque Vectoring, part of an available Driver’s Package for MKZ with the 3.0-liter engine, which, Galhotra said, enhances cornering agility without compromising ride comfort, helping drivers enjoy a smooth, seamless experience.

The 2017 MKZ provides a hybrid alternative as well, and a 2.0-liter GTDI, 245-horsepower four-cylinder engine with front-wheel drive.

Available Lincoln Drive Control allows drivers to adjust among three drive modes – comfort, normal and sport.

Chevrolet Grabs Motor Trend’s Car and Truck of the Year

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diesel, making it the only midsize truck to offer such an engine (along with its GMC Canyon cousin),” Kiino wrote. “That’s a significant powertrain addition, enough to warrant a title-defense invite. For the latter, the answer is a bit more complex but no less convincing.”

Judges noted that the 2016 Colorado’s small size and lighter weight produced “unusually” sharp steering and deft handling. The Toyota Tacoma, when compared to the Colorado, felt “old-school and truckish.” Editors said the Colorado drives “like the future of small trucks.”

Judges also like the Colorado’s fuel efficiency. Kiino wrote, “Per our own Real MPG testing, we can confirm that the Colorado diesel is far and away the most fuel-efficient midsize truck on the market.

“At 23.2/31.4/26.3 mpg city/highway/combined, the 4x2 Colorado LT Duramax returned numbers more in line with a 1.5-liter Malibu sedan (20.8/34.3/25.3), topping the tiny

gas engine’s combined rating by 1 full mpg. To get an idea of how a comparable gas truck rates, the 4x2 Tacoma SR5 with a 3.5-liter V6 touts EPA numbers of 19/24/21. (We were unable to obtain Real MPG numbers on this truck.)

“For a gas engine, the Taco’s numbers are excellent—near the top of the non-diesel pack, in fact – but in light of the Colorado Duramax, its scores make it look like it’s running the Tundra’s 5.7-liter V8.”

Judges also like the Colorado’s advanced design. Kiino wrote, “Sure, it’s a year old, and a

younger Tacoma is on the scene, but the Colorado remains the segment’s design benchmark. The styling is sporty and handsome yet understated. It draws you in the longer you admire the clean lines, bold front fascia, and tight panel gaps. Then there are the details.

“From its deep bed depth, CornerStep rear bumper, and second-row under-seat storage to triple-sealed doors and segment-first aluminum hood and active aero grill shutters, the Colorado was designed to function as well as it looks.

“Inside, the story’s much the

same. The mix of materials and design presentation are not as fresh or original as those in the Tacoma, but the ergonomics and ease of use are second to none.”

GM spokesman Monte Doran said the Colorado is available in four-door extended or crew cab models with Work Truck, LT and Z71 trim levels.

The diesel engine is offered in LT and Z71 Crew Cab models with 2WD or four-wheel drive. It features a variable-geometry turbocharger for optimal power and efficiency, and is SAE-certified at 181 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque at 2,000 rpm.



2016 Camaro



2016 Colorado

Alfa Romeo Giulia ‘Entirely New Benchmark’ – Bigland

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and handling, the all-new Giulia delivers on the pedigree of incredible technology, race-inspired performance and Italian design and style.”

Crafted by Alfa Romeo artisans at the Cassino plant in Italy, the all-new 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio is the ultra-high-performance model in the lineup and a testament to Alfa Romeo’s perfect balance of engineering and emotion, creating a premium sport sedan for driving enthusiasts that stands out in the segment, Bigland said.

Incorporating next-level technologies, the Giulia Quadrifoglio features a Ferrari-derived 505-horsepower bi-turbo V6 engine – Alfa Romeo’s most powerful production car engine ever – cylinder deactivation and carbon fiber-active aero front splitter for improved handling at high speeds.

Race-inspired performance, Bigland said, is achieved courtesy of the Giulia’s extensive use of ultralight, high-strength materials, which include a carbon fiber driveshaft, hood, roof and more – all for a best-in-class power-to-weight ratio and better balanced weight distribution.

The result is a class-leading 0-60 mph time of 3.8 seconds and a record-setting Nürburgring time.

And similar to all great Alfa Romeo vehicles, Bigland said, the Giulia features “stunning Italian design with impeccable proportions and attention to detail that enables a timeless Alfa Romeo style with world-class craftsmanship.”

Following the launch of the all-new 2017 Giulia Quadrifoglio, Bigland said, Alfa Romeo will

introduce to the North American market the full-line of Giulia models that further take on the heart of the premium mid-size sedan segment.

These Giulia models will include an all-new Alfa Romeo-designed all-aluminum four-cylinder turbo engine with direct in-

jection, fuel-saving and emission-reducing MultiAir2 technology, and twin-scroll turbo technology for maximum responsiveness, Bigland said.

The result of this new technology is a class-leading 276 horsepower on the entry-level Alfa Romeo Giulia.

According to Bigland, in addition to rear-wheel drive, the Alfa Romeo Giulia will also offer an advanced all-wheel-drive system with torque vectoring for customers who require both maximum traction and handling on all road surface conditions with their automobiles.

MCC Supports Student Diversity Efforts

Culminating from 18 months of planning, nearly 500 students from 19 Macomb County school districts along with a charter school gathered in Warren at Macomb Community College’s South Campus on Nov. 5 for a half-day Student Diversity Summit.

The Skillman Foundation sponsored the meeting, said MCC spokeswoman Jeanne Nicol.

With an objective to facilitate productive dialogue, Nicol said, about race, diversity and culture, the summit was designed to provide a safe and constructive forum for student discussion and to enlist youth leaders in embracing the “new normal” in Macomb County.

The idea for the summit was initially precipitated by a group

of Utica Community School students, Nicol said.

Planning for the event involved MCC, Macomb County school superintendents, the Macomb Intermediate School District and OneMacomb, a county initiative to promote multiculturalism and inclusiveness.

In March 2015, 35 students from throughout the county met with the planning team to provide student perspective to help finalize the summit’s focus and approach, Nicol said. In addition to the opening presentation and ice breaker, the summit was constructed with eight different in-

teractive breakout sessions that were repeated, providing students the opportunity to participate in two distinct sessions.

Created in 1960, the Skillman Foundation, Nicol said, is a private philanthropy organization committed to improving meaningful graduation rates in the Detroit region, so kids are ready for college, career, and life.

The Foundation has assets of nearly a half-billion dollars, with an annual grants budget of \$17 million. The Foundation works to achieve its goal by investing in community leadership and safety initiatives.

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Three Area Charities Benefit from UAW Local 160's Gifts

by Jim Stickford

Amidst the busy holiday season, the members of UAW Local 160 in Warren took some time on Nov. 17 to help those who help others.

Three charities – Warren Goodfellows, Grace Centers of Hope and Wigs 4 Kids – each received \$700 checks. The money was raised during last summer's GM Tech Center Auto Show.

"We've always given money to only three charities," said Mike Queen, co-chair of the 2015 car show. "We've debated whether to add more charities because there are so many good causes out there."

"But, we've stuck with three because we want to make sure that the money we donate is enough to really help. The more charities you donate to, the smaller the donations."

This year, Queen said, the auto show committee was able to raise \$2,100 – which is \$700 each for three charities.

"People ask us why we bother to give to charity," Queen said. "The reason is simple. We are a part of the larger community and being able to help out groups that help the public where we live is something we're proud to do."

"We want to be a real asset to the community. We know we are blessed with jobs and to be able to help others is a real privilege."

Nick Alexander, UAW vendor coordinator at the auto show, echoed Queen's sentiments.

"It feels good to be able to give back," Alexander said. "We do love our cars and being able to show them off at the car show. But the show is also about doing something that, in the end, can benefit the community at large."

Melissa Rodriguez, Grace Centers of Hope's director of Development, was on hand at Local 160 to accept the \$700 donation.

"We are just so grateful to the people at the UAW for this donation," Rodriguez said. "They have blessed our organization



UAW Local 160 presented three local charities with donations raised at the 2015 GM Tech Center Car Show.

with money, which enables us to help those truly in need. That's something worth celebrating."

Dorene Speece, a volunteer with the Warren/Sterling Heights Goodfellows, said her organization and the UAW have a long tradition of working together.

"I am proud to be following in my father's footsteps in helping run the Warren/Sterling Heights Goodfellows," Speece said. "We try to make sure that everyone has a meal for Christmas."

"In fact, we try to make sure that people are fed all year 'round."

"I want to also say that we're working this year, in part, to honor a long-time Goodfellows volunteer – Linda Stockton. She died earlier this month and we're so sorry to lose her. We just want to continue her good work."

Maggie Varney, CEO of Wigs 4 Kids, said that the money her organization is receiving from Local 160 will go toward creating custom wigs for children who

have lost their hair because of medical issues.

"When a child has to have chemotherapy," Varney said, "that child will often lose his or her hair. Wigmakers don't make wigs for children, and kids who are ill go through so much, being able to walk around in public without being stared at is something valuable."

In addition to creating wigs, Varney's group provides support for the children in other ways as well.

"This council is doing more than giving us money," Varney said. "Last summer, they worked with some of the sick children at

the car show. The kids got driven around on golf carts. That might not seem like much, but if you're a child going through chemotherapy, it can be really difficult to do a lot of walking."

"The kids helped pick raffle winners. They really had a great time, and it was all due to the kindness of the people at UAW Local 160. We're just so grateful for their help and money."

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Local Firms Get Funding

Five early-stage companies from Macomb, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties will receive \$300,000 in funding from the Innovation Fund at Macomb Community College, which is powered by JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The Innovation Fund is a \$2.7 million effort to stimulate economic development and job growth among promising Detroit-area entrepreneurs and next-stage companies with high-growth potential.

Funding is provided by Macomb Community College's Strategic Fund and JPMorgan Chase, as part of the company's \$100 million effort to Detroit's economic recovery, said MCC spokeswoman Jeanne Nicol.

The recipients are:

- Banza of Detroit, which produces pasta from chickpeas.
- Lighthouse Molding of Sterling Heights, which develops low-pressure overmolding technology.
- PHASIQ of Ann Arbor, which has designed medical testing methods.
- Pro:Up of Detroit, which is an online marketplace that matches students to activities related to career objectives.
- Sterility of Bloomfield Hills, which has developed a personal hand sanitizer system.

"The Innovation Fund is an important new way in which the college can directly support economic development while providing a different type of learning experience for our students," said Dr. James Jacobs, president, Macomb Community College. "While classroom education is still important, education delivered in the workplace in collaboration with the economic drivers in our community and region positions our students and business community with a unique advantage."

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2016 Camaro hitting the road for Chevrolet.

160 Drivers Were Able to See U.S.A. in a Chevrolet

Thanks to the latest General Motors navigation technology, there's hope for people who can get lost in a phone booth.

Chevrolet on Nov. 18 concluded its 171,252-mile Find New Roads Trip, during which 160 participants leveraged Chevrolet and OnStar connected technologies to choose their own routes to visit each of the 48 contiguous United States, said GM spokesman Monte Doran.

"The Find New Roads Trip was more than a national test drive of the all-new 2016 Camaro, it was a real-world demonstration of Chevrolet's commitment to connected technologies across our entire portfolio," said Steve Majoros, Chevrolet Car Marketing director.

"Chevrolet offers more vehicles with Apple CarPlay and 4G LTE technology than any other brand, and every Chevrolet includes six months of prepaid subscription to the convenience and security of OnStar. These features are useful every day, whether you're commuting to work or need to find a hotel room in Walla Walla, Wash."

OnStar tracked the tour's progress and supported guests' road trip requests. By the numbers:

- 15,600 vehicle-location pings. To verify the fleet of 2016 Camaros visited all 48 States, the OnStar Command Center mapped the tour's progress by pulling hourly location data for each of the 26 Camaros on the tour for four weeks.
- 553 OnStar "Blue Button" pushes: OnStar advisors helped with a variety of travel needs, from booking hotels to finding the closest gas station to downloading directions to points of interest.
- 144 hotel rooms booked: Guests used the new OnStar AtY-

ourService concierge to book rooms at hotels across the country.

- Zero Roadside Assistance Requests: Over the course of four weeks, 48 states, and more than 170,000 miles, there was not a single request for roadside assistance.

All of the 2016 Camaros were equipped with Apple CarPlay phone integration, enabling drivers to use their personal, approved Apple apps to access their navigation, music, news, audio books, phone contacts, and text messages.

Each Camaro also featured a 4G LTE Wi-Fi connection, allowing participants to post content and check in with the office while on the road. During the four-week program, participants used 33 GB of data.

After driving from Orlando, Fla., to New Orleans, Alexander Kalogianni from *Digital Trends*, wrote:

"Through the integrated OnStar system, the Camaro can also be a roving 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, which was so stable that I was able to video chat with family members eager to see the interior of the car (not while driving, for the record). Through the OnStar service, I was also able to very easily book a hotel in New Orleans on the go, having an agent reserve a room for me and remotely program in directions to the hotel into my navigation system."

The Find New Roads Trip tour included events in 16 cities, where the public was invited to see many new Chevrolet models, Doran said.

More than 3,000 people toured the display, which included the new 2016 Camaro, Malibu and Volt, as well as the updated 2016 Equinox, Silverado and Colorado Diesel.

Thanksgiving Parade On, Thanks to Art Van

Thanksgiving has long been Art Van Elslander's favorite holiday.

This year, it holds particular significance for the founder and chairman of Art Van Furniture as he reflects upon the 25th anniversary of writing a personal check in 1990 to save Detroit's iconic Thanksgiving Day parade, said Art Van spokeswoman Diane Charles.

It was a quarter century ago when a member of Van Elslander's Art Van Furniture management team informed him in the "eleventh hour" that America's Thanksgiving Parade was in grave financial peril and scheduled for cancellation, Charles said.

When he asked and was told

how much money was needed to make sure the event would go on, he wrote the check without hesitation.

"I made the decision on the spot," said Van Elslander. "And to this day it was one of the best decisions I have ever made."

Charles said since his donation, Van Elslander has awakened at dawn each Thanksgiving morning to travel the three-mile Thanksgiving parade route.

His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have walked or ridden on parade floats annually, creating a family tradition that bonds the generations, Charles said.

"My grandchildren and great-grandchildren have never known Thanksgiving without being in

the parade," said Van Elslander.

Art Van Furniture has been a major contributor to the parade annually for the past 25 years. In 2013, the Midwest's No. 1 furniture and mattress retailer became the iconic parade's presenting sponsor, and America's Thanksgiving Parade presented by Art Van Furniture has become recognized by *U.S. News & World Report Travel* as one of the best Thanksgiving parades in the country. It is the second largest Thanksgiving parade in the United States.

"The parade is one of Detroit's jewels," said Van Elslander. "This spectacular event spotlights Detroit at its finest, and I plan to make sure it's around for years to come."

Ford Seats Foundation of Comfortable Ride

There's no reason that driving by the seat of your pants should be uncomfortable, whether you drive a Ford Focus or a Ford F-150.

There are many differences between driving a Ford Focus and an F-150 pickup, but both vehicles share one important feature – the comfort of their front seats, said Ford spokesman Sethi Deeptie.

Thanks to an innovative design, the seats are multi-adjustable, with features such as thigh extensions and lumbar support.

Helping to reduce muscle fatigue and promoting blood flow on longer journeys, the seats can provide a subtle massage for thighs and lower back, Deeptie said.

And further adding to comfort, the seats can warm or cool the driver and front seat passenger.

Those and many other comfort features are in large part attributable to Ford's global front seat architecture – which debuted on the 2013 Escape and Fusion – and has since migrated to most of the company's lineup in North America, said Johnathan Line, Ford global advanced seats innovation supervisor and technical expert.

The innovation serves as the basis for Ford's best-in-class ranking for overall front seat comfort among full-line manufacturers in North America.

"There was skepticism as to whether building a seat structure to fit all vehicle sizes could be done," said Line. "The trick was to turn our focus away from the vehicles, and concentrate instead on our customers."

In the design and engineering



2016 Explorer the latest to use the common seat architecture.

phase, the seat team focused on items such as "H-points" and "hip-to-heel" dimensions, Line said.

These ratios represent the science that goes into creating in-vehicle comfort. Seats are designed to better cradle passengers at the hip and to prevent sliding while driving. Side bolsters and seat cushions allow more freedom of movement so drivers feel less confined.

The Ford seat team refers to the surfaces passengers touch and feel as "top hats" – leather or cloth seat covers atop foam padding. Beneath each top hat is a seat skeleton that serves as the basis for Ford's steadily climbing rankings for comfort, said Line.

Taking cues from the office furniture and first-class air travel industries, the Ford front seat architecture is ergonomically designed to ensure each seat cradles an occupant comfortably, snug in certain places with freedom to move in others. Dan Fer-

retti, Ford global seats senior technical leader, said it's important to highlight the commonalities and differences between seats' various environments.

"Our seats are designed to hold people where they want to be held, but without being restricting," Ferretti said. "For example, the side bolsters are tapered, which allows drivers to have better movement of their arms and legs."

At the heart of the structure is an innovative two-piece design that consists of cushion and back frame modules – both scalable parts. These Ford-engineered parts are joined with four purchased fasteners at the back-to-cushion interfaces. They come together in a plug-and-play fashion to support more than 30 seat configurations showcasing 20-plus comfort and convenience features, including:

- Inflatable lumbar, bolster and massage bladders;
- Two-way adjustable lumbar support;
- Heating and cooling;
- Upper back tilt;
- Cushion extensions;
- Integrated cushion suspension;
- Upper back bolsters;
- Independent thigh supports.

"The plug-and-play design is really what sets this system apart," Ferretti said. "It enables the democratization of technology, so we're able to make more features available to more people."

The seat structure is mounted using rails of varying height, which makes it best suited to a vehicle's interior environment, Ferretti said. A variety of floor-mounting pieces allows for innovative under-seat storage solutions. Along with the comfort benefit, the high-strength steel frame and laser welding brings weight savings too, meaning improved fuel efficiency for customers. It eliminates more than 50 components, and weighs about 30 percent less than previous seat structures.

Since the debut of the common seat architecture, the number of seat systems in Ford vehicles in North America has gone from 26 to four, Deeptie said.

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2017 Buick LaCrosse Grille Inspired by 1954 Concept

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pads that result in a new threshold for Buick's signature Quiet-Tuning.

The balance of the efficiency equation comes from a technologically advanced, second-generation 3.6L V6 engine paired with a new eight-speed automatic transmission. Standard Stop/Start technology improves efficiency in stop-and-go driving.

"We've blended sophisticated technologies and advanced safety systems to offer a more enjoyable and engaging driving experience," said Aldred.

"It's a rewarding sedan for those who seek luxurious appointments, style and quality."

The new LaCrosse's expressive exterior design creates a new proportion for a more dramatic road presence, said Wilson.

The front wheels have been pulled forward and the wheelbase stretched 2.7 inches, while the overall length is only 0.6-inch longer. The roofline is 1.6 inches lower than the current model, Wilson said.

The longer wheelbase is



Rear view of the 2017 LaCrosse.

matched by wheels pushed outward 1.3 inches in the front and 1.1 inches in the rear, while the car's width has grown only 0.4-inch, creating a wheels-at-corners stance intended to convey road confidence.

Buick spokesman Nick Richards said the 2017 LaCrosse has an all-new platform "designed from the ground up."

"This is a long-wheel platform," Richards said. "No other Buick has such a platform. It was designed at the Tech Center and not in places like Germany or Korea."

The 2017 Buick LaCrosse will be assembled at GM's Detroit-Hamtramck plant.

Michigan Employment Holds Steady

LANSING, Mich. (AP) – The state says Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment is remaining steady.

The Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget announced last week that it was 5 percent in October, unchanged from September and equal to the national rate, according to information released on Nov. 19.

Jason Palmer, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives,

says in a statement that: "With 10 months in the books, 2015 is turning out to be a positive year for the Michigan labor market." In October 2014, the rate was 6.6 percent.

The number of jobs in Michigan grew by 9,000 in October from the previous month, while the number of unemployed edged up by 3,000.

The state reports that the figures showed that there was a net gain of 13,000 people to the state workforce.

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OEMs Help Focus:HOPE

DETROIT (AP) – Automotive and technology firms including Ford, General Motors and Microsoft have pledged about \$4.5 million to a Detroit organization's workforce development and educational programs.

Focus: HOPE announced Nov. 15 that Microsoft Corp. is offering \$2 million in software and cash, Magna International is giving \$1 million and robotics equipment, and Lear Corp. and GM Foundation both pledged \$500,000. Ford Motor Co. donated \$360,000.

The nonprofit said the contributions support its goal to train roughly 12,000 people during the next 15 years in manufacturing and information technologies.

Officials said the contributions are a step toward securing \$30

million in private funding during the next five years. The nonprofit also is getting a \$3 million apprenticeship grant from the U.S. Labor Department.

James Tobin, Magna's chief marketing officer, said in a news release the companies recognize the benefit of the donations.

"As industry leaders, we are deeply committed to providing opportunities to underrepresented residents in our community while ensuring that we replenish our pipeline of qualified, valuable employees," he said.

Since 1981, Focus: HOPE said it has trained about 12,000 people, including machinists, information technologists and others. It was founded after the 1967 riots to heal the rift between Detroit's black and white residents.



2016 Cadillac CT6

2016 CT6 a 'New Approach To Luxury' – de Nysschen

The Cadillac CT6 will hit showrooms in March of 2016.

Production in Detroit starts in January, with initial shipments to dealers in March, said GM spokesman Donny Nordlicht.

Through the integration of new technologies, the first-ever Cadillac CT6 creates a new formula for the range-topping sedan and substantially expands the Cadillac portfolio.

Thanks to pioneering new vehicle manufacturing and design methods, the CT6 achieves dynamic performance, efficiency and agility previously unseen in large luxury cars, Nordlicht said.

The CT6 product line similarly aims to refresh and broaden the range of consumers in the prestige class of luxury sedans. In the U.S. market, the 2016 Cadillac CT6 sedan is priced from \$53,495, with the highest level CT6 Platinum model starting at \$83,465.

The CT6 is based on GM's Omega platform. It is a vehicle architecture designed by General Motors for full-size, rear-wheel-drive luxury vehicles. The platform architecture was developed by Cadillac.

"It's an all-new platform," Nordlicht said, "designed specifically for the CT6. It was developed as part of Cadillac's ongoing expansion of the brand. It helps give the brand a better foothold in our efforts to maintain our position among the top ranks of luxury vehicles around the world."

"The CT6 is an entirely new approach to prestige luxury, adding driving dynamics and technology while reducing the bulk of traditional large sedans," said Johan de Nysschen, president of Cadillac.

"With the CT6, Cadillac has a competitive edge. With our use of advanced lightweight construction and innovative technology, it is prestige luxury reimagined."

Offering three engine choices, and a broad range of high-technology systems and luxury amenities, the first-ever CT6 presents a wide range of options and price points to draw new customers:

- CT6 2.0L Turbo – Starting at \$53,495;
- CT6 3.6L V6 with AWD – Starting at \$55,495;
- CT6 3.0L Twin Turbo V6 with AWD – Starting at \$64,395.

Customers can place orders now with dealers and view additional product information at cadillac.com.

The Cadillac CT6 sedan takes drivers to a higher threshold of involvement, said Nordlicht, with technologies to enhance situational awareness, chassis systems – including active technologies – that make the most of control in all conditions, and powertrains led by an all-new Cadillac Twin Turbo engine.

The Cadillac 3.0L Twin Turbo V6 engine is rated at 400 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque.

A new, 335-horsepower 3.6L V6 and Cadillac's award-winning 2.0T four-cylinder engine are also available. All engines are paired with eight-speed automatic transmissions.

The rigid, lightweight architecture provides a crucial foundation for the sedan's segment-challenging agility, said Nordlicht, enhanced by active-on-demand all-wheel drive, active rear steering and Magnetic Ride Control on the available Active Chassis System.

Cadillac has made technological strides with in-cabin advances, as well, including the Rear Camera Mirror, Enhanced Night Vision technology and the pioneering 34-speaker Bose Panaray audio system.

Cadillac this past spring announced that the CT6 will be available with plug-in hybrid electric technology, as the company continues its development of highly capable alternative powertrain vehicles. Further details for the CT6 Plug-In Hybrid model will be announced closer to that vehicle's launch.

The 2016 Cadillac CT6 will be built at the Detroit-Hamtramck assembly plant on the east side of Detroit. Cadillac in April auctioned the first retail production CT6 to benefit the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute.

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GM Continues Global Effort To Green Up Its Facilities

Nature and industry don't have to be enemies. Just look at what General Motors is doing in South Korea.

Over the sounds of the assembly plant building the all-new 2016 Chevrolet Cruze, employees at GM's Gunsan plant can hear cicadae singing from rescued trees that first sprouted more than a century ago, said GM spokeswoman Sharon Basel.

The Gunsan plant is GM's first manufacturing site in Asia to earn certification from the Wildlife Habitat Council for establishing a wildlife habitat on corporate lands, but it's just one of 46 GM sites around the world that have been recognized by the nonprofit for biodiversity programs, Basel said.

Seven thousand miles east, General Motor's Orion Assembly plant is gearing up to start production of the Chevrolet Bolt EV, while also establishing an onsite pollinator garden to protect declining populations of honeybees and monarch butterflies, Basel said.

GM's Fairfax Assembly plant in Kansas City, Kan., is not only the home to the next-generation Chevrolet Malibu and all-new Malibu Hybrid, but to the mourning doves and scissortail flycatchers that take refuge on the 2.5 acres of habitat.

GM is now halfway toward its goal of securing wildlife habitat certifications or equivalent at each of its manufacturing sites by 2020.

The company now leads all automakers around the world in Wildlife Habitat Council certifications, Basel said.

"General Motors' continued conservation leadership and commitment to habitat enhance-

ment sets an example for other companies to follow," said Margaret O'Gorman, president, Wildlife Habitat Council.

"The global aspect of GM's participation in conservation programs raises awareness of corporate conservation's impact in enhancing ecosystems of value around the world."

GM's Gunsan site is the first program the Wildlife Habitat Council has certified in Korea, Basel said. Last year, General Motors became the first company to establish a certified wildlife habitat in China. The company now manages nearly 4,700 acres of wildlife habitat in seven countries.

General Motors received seven new certifications this year through the Wildlife Habitat Council's Wildlife at Work and Corporate Lands for Learning programs, which recognize outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, Basel said.

Twelve General Motors facilities around the world also earned recertification this year, Basel said, having shown continuous growth of their habitats and environmental education programs.

"Our global scale gives us an opportunity to enhance diverse ecosystems in the communities where we live and work, from wetlands and deserts to woodlands and prairies," said Greg Martin, General Motors executive director for Sustainability.

"We work with schools, nonprofits and conservation groups in our communities to increase awareness about wildlife and habitat preservation at the local level."

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- Tilt and Telescopic Steering Column!
- 7" Color Touch Screen MyLink Radio!
- 36 MPG on the Highway!

Stock#G25844

Was \$24,660 Sale Price **\$18,876***

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- ECOTEC "Turbo" 1.4L DOHC VVT Engine! • Automatic Transmission!
- OnStar with 4G LTE with built-in WiFi hotspot!
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- Steering Wheel Controls!
- 34 MPG on the Highway!

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BLACK FRIDAY SALES EVENT

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<h4>2015 BUICK ENCORE</h4> <p>Stk. #SRFS7J</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$79* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$19,995*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$79* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$19,995*	<h4>2016 BUICK VERANO 1SD</h4> <p>Stk. #SWNV65</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$109* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE A 2015 1SL FOR \$21,370*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$109* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A 2015 1SL FOR \$21,370*	<h4>2016 BUICK LACROSSE 1SB</h4> <p>Stk. #50VN9J</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$290* 39 MO. \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE A 2015 1SB FOR \$25,895*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$290* 39 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A 2015 1SB FOR \$25,895*	<h4>2016 BUICK ENCLAVE CONVENIENCE</h4> <p>Stk. #B560137</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$219* 36 MO. \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$34,002*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$219* 36 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$34,002*
LEASE FOR \$79* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$19,995*										
LEASE FOR \$109* 24 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A 2015 1SL FOR \$21,370*										
LEASE FOR \$290* 39 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A 2015 1SB FOR \$25,895*										
LEASE FOR \$219* 36 MO. \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$34,002*										

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<h4>2016 GMC YUKON SLE</h4> <p>Stk. #560733</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$368* 36 MONTHS \$1,999 DOWN</td><td></td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$368* 36 MONTHS \$1,999 DOWN		<h4>2016 GMC ACADIA SLE-1</h4> <p>Stk. #STTMBK</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$179* 24 MONTHS \$1,499 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$29,808*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$179* 24 MONTHS \$1,499 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$29,808*	<h4>2015 GMC SIERRA ELEVATION EDITION 1500 • 4WD DBL. CAB</h4> <p>Stk. #G553257</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$128* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$31,709*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$128* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$31,709*	<h4>2016 GMC TERRAIN SLE-1</h4> <p>Stk. #G560659</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR \$119* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$24,066*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR \$119* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$24,066*
LEASE FOR \$368* 36 MONTHS \$1,999 DOWN											
LEASE FOR \$179* 24 MONTHS \$1,499 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$29,808*										
LEASE FOR \$128* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$31,709*										
LEASE FOR \$119* 24 MONTHS \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$24,066*										

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<h3>SILVERADO 2015</h3> <p>Stk. #553788</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>PURCHASE A 4WD LS DBL ST8 CUSTOM PACKAGE FOR \$29,865*</td><td>LEASE A 2015 SILVERADO 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN</td></tr></table>	PURCHASE A 4WD LS DBL ST8 CUSTOM PACKAGE FOR \$29,865*	LEASE A 2015 SILVERADO 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN	<h3>NEW CRUZE 2016</h3> <p>Stk. #460324</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$46* \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE A LS FOR \$14,849*</td></tr></table>	LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$46* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A LS FOR \$14,849*	<h3>MALIBU 2016</h3> <p>Stk. #460444</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$36* \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE A LS FOR \$17,450*</td></tr></table>	LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$36* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A LS FOR \$17,450*	<h3>EQUINOX 2016</h3> <p>Stk. #560302</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE A 1LT 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE A LS FOR \$20,957*</td></tr></table>	LEASE A 1LT 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A LS FOR \$20,957*
PURCHASE A 4WD LS DBL ST8 CUSTOM PACKAGE FOR \$29,865*	LEASE A 2015 SILVERADO 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN										
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LEASE A LT 24 MONTHS \$36* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A LS FOR \$17,450*										
LEASE A 1LT 24 MONTHS \$119* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE A LS FOR \$20,957*										
<h3>CAMARO 2015</h3> <p>Stk. #450761</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>PURCHASE FOR \$22,457*</td><td></td></tr></table>	PURCHASE FOR \$22,457*		<h3>TRAX 2016</h3> <p>Stk. #STBXP</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$49* \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$16,620*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$49* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$16,620*	<h3>TRAVERSE 2016</h3> <p>Stk. #560275</p> <table border="1"><tr><td>LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$169* \$999 DOWN</td><td>PURCHASE FOR \$26,666*</td></tr></table>	LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$169* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$26,666*			
PURCHASE FOR \$22,457*											
LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$49* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$16,620*										
LEASE FOR 24 MONTHS \$169* \$999 DOWN	PURCHASE FOR \$26,666*										

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Audi is Latest VW Brand Caught Up in Diesel Scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP) – The emissions-rigging scandal that has engulfed German auto giant Volkswagen will not diminish sales of one of its luxury brands in the United States, the head of Audi of America predicted Nov. 18.

In the two months since news broke that hundreds of thousands of diesel cars – mostly VWs, but also some Audi models – had their emissions devices doctored to beat U.S. tailpipe tests, sales of Audis have been at record levels compared to the same months in years past, according to company data.

“We’ll have a record November and a record December,” Audi of America President Scott Keogh told reporters at the Los Angeles Auto Show. In 2014, Audi sold 36,000 cars in the U.S. in November and December.

Keogh added that while sales were important, fixing cars with emissions test “defeat devices” was a priority.

In the past five years, Audi’s sales in the U.S. have risen 79 percent, outpacing the overall market, which grew 42 percent, according to Autodata Corp.

The brand has benefited from booming luxury car sales and the perception that German manufacturers make better and more prestigious vehicles.

Audi sales through October of this year are up another 13 percent from a year ago. Keogh said for all 2015, Audi expected U.S. sales to top 200,000 cars sold for the first time.

Recent data show that VW sales in the U.S., where the scandal first broke Sept. 18, were up just 0.2 percent.

At the auto show last week, Audi also announced that it wanted 25 percent of its U.S. sales to be electric cars – whether gas-electric hybrids or plug-in electric – by 2025. The automaker also said it would be investing, possibly as a partner, in a nationwide network of fast-charging stations to give owners of electric cars the confidence that they will not run out of power on the road.

Insurance Agency Reminds Drivers To Watch for Deer

Fall has arrived, and with it, deer collision season. Deer hunting and mating season means that motorists need to be extra cautious of deer-car collisions that increasingly occur around this time of year.

Meemic Insurance Company reminds drivers to remain alert and aware when behind the wheel, as attentive driving can prevent crashes, said Meemic Insurance Company spokesperson Pamela Harlin.

According to the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Harlin said, there are about 1.5 million car accidents with deer each year that result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage, about 150 human fatalities, and more than 10,000 injuries.

Harlin said deer are herd animals, and frequently travel single file. If you see one whitetail, watch for others as another might not be far behind.

She also said multiple independent studies have found that “deer whistles” are not effective, so even if you have one, stay aware.

“And always wear a safety belt,” Harlin said. “It is your best defense against injury in any roadway crash. Pay attention to deer crossing and speed limit signs. Deer are creatures of habit and signs are installed at known deer crossing areas to alert you.”