

## GM, Ford, FCA Participate in Science Event

### Hands-on Demonstrations Highlight MCC Annual Education Gathering

by Jim Stickford

Macomb Community College (MCC) and several automakers and auto suppliers put on the annual Auto STEAM Days gathering to educate local students on possible careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics/Manufacturing (STEAM).

Sean Patrick, the manager of Media Relations at MCC, said that the school has been holding the event for more than a decade. This year it was held over two days, Dec. 5 and Dec. 6. On Dec. 5, students from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties came to MCC and saw demonstrations of STEAM knowledge being used.

The demonstrations were put on by the event's sponsors, Patrick said. They included GM, Ford, FCA, Continental Magna, Siemens and Kuka.

On the evening Dec. 6, students could return to the campus with their parents for a Q&A.

"The idea is to show students how studying STEAM subjects can lead to a very successful career," Patrick said. "The Q&A session helps educate the parents."

"This is an exciting event that we look forward to putting on every year," said Joe Petrosky,

dean of Engineering at MCC. "It really charges me up to see students learning and having fun at the same time. The first day is all about student interaction and hands-on demonstrations by our sponsors. The second day's evening gathering is more about students and their parents learning the pathways to STEAM careers, learning what classes to take and what companies are looking for in employees."

The demonstrations put on by Ford, FCA and GM represented a sort of "soup to nuts" showing of how automotive designs go from the imagination to an actual full-size three-dimensional clay representation of an automotive design.

Alexander Tannen, an exterior designer for Jeep, showed students how to use Photoshop software to create a sketch of an automotive design on a computer. In earlier times this sketch might be done using a pencil and paper.

"I really enjoy teaching kids how sketch electronically," Tannen said. "We now have technology that translates sketches directly into electronic representations. The students usually haven't seen this type of technology on their home computers and are very interested in how it

works. They are fascinated by the process."

Michael Smith, a Design recruiting and talent manager at Ford, showed students how to

use 3D rendering software to create three-dimensional renderings of automotive designs.

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Local students got their hands dirty at GM's design demonstration.

## Funeral Train

### Engine 4141

The locomotive that was used to transport the late President George H.W. Bush's body has a storied history that can be traced back to General Motors.

A state funeral was held for Bush in Washington, D.C. last week. After the service ended, his body was flown back to Texas,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Special Engine 4141

## TC Volunteers Show Support for U.S. Troops

by Jim Stickford

It's a tradition that goes back to the turn of the century – members of GM's Electrical Design and Engineering team at the Tech Center putting together Care packages for our troops overseas.

Shannon McClintock is a designer in the Electrical Engineering and Design department and is responsible for organizing the yearly event.

"Our team started doing this since 2004," McClintock said. "And we've been shipping Care packages to members of the military ever since. Back when we started we shipped out only a couple of packages. I think the number was 12. This year we are sending something in the neighborhood of 120 Care packages."

McClintock said they send the Care packages to different military units, including those in the Army, Marines and Navy, in Afghanistan.

"One of those units we are sending packages is home to Capt. Brian Jutila," McClintock said. "He is in the Army Corps of Engineers and is in charge of three different combat engineering battalions in three different locations. He is also an employee of General Motors and works as a Vehicle Systems Engineer. He is currently serving a year-long deployment as part of Army Reserve service."

McClintock said that her department is able to collect items and put the Care packages together thanks to a lot of hard work by her fellow GM employees.

Items collected for distribution to service members include wet wipes, DVDs, instant soup packages, slippers, toiletry packages, crackers, nuts, chips, granola bars and candy.

On Dec. 6, a number of volunteers gathered by the Starbucks on the first floor of the VEC build-

ing at the Tech Center to package the donated items.

McClintock said that 26 people originally signed up, but about 50 people showed up the day of the event to help put together the Care packages.

The donated items were separated and placed in piles along a row of tables. Volunteers would then grab a bag and go to each pile and grab an item, and move on down the line to the next pile of donated goods.

Once they had visited each pile, the bags were boxed for transportation to the troops in Afghanistan.

To pay for the transportation of the packages, we collect pop bottles and cans throughout the year. The money from the deposits goes toward paying for the transportation of the Care packages to the service people.

Gina Ivanciu, an Electrical Designer and colleague of McClintock, has been volunteering her

time for the Military Care Package Event, since she was hired at GM in 2015.

"How did I get involved in this event?" Ivanciu said. "I was asked, but it was an honor to be asked and I had no problem volunteering my time. I try to help and anytime GM needs my help for projects like this, I am glad to volunteer my time."

McClintock said that every project like this needs a "go-to" person who can get things done.

In this case the go-to person was Raquel Sundo, an Electrical Designer who designs electrical wiring harnesses for GM cars.

McClintock credits Sundo for checking inventory and making sure that they had enough items to send all the Care packages that they wanted to send this year.

"Shannon is kind to say those things," Sundo said. "But I just like being a part of the GM team,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## VW, Ford Consider Idled Plant Usage

REDFORD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) – Ford and Volkswagen are in talks about building VW vehicles in some of Ford's U.S. factories.

VW CEO Herbert Diess told reporters after a meeting at the White House that the automaker in talks with Ford. The meeting was held Dec. 4 with executives from VW, BMW and Daimler to discuss trade issues.

Ford CEO Jim Hackett confirmed the VW talks Dec. 4 and Executive Chairman Bill Ford said the negotiations are going well. But both said they weren't ready to announce anything.

Hackett wouldn't say that Ford has excess factory capacity that could be used to build VWs, but said he is happy with the way his company utilizes its factories.

"We really manage that tightly," he said. "I'm really proud of where we are and our utilization right now."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



McClintock helps volunteers prepare Care packages for the troops.



GM employees at the Tech Center got together to preopare Care packages for U.S. troops overseas.



# GM, Ford and FCA Gather STEAM at MCC Annual Event

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One of the students he called up to actually use the 3D software was Peter Wojcik, a freshman at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores.

Wojcik put on a special 3D headset and was given a hand-held control. By using this control, Wojcik was able to "sketch" a 3D rendering of what he "drew" in the air. This sketch appeared on a screen.

Jordan Beckley, a Ford digital design instructor, showed Wojcik how to use the hand control to create the appearance of texture on what he drew and how to manipulate the control to create actual drawings on the screen by manipulating the controller in the air as if he was drawing on an invisible board.

"I have to say this is a pretty good demonstration," Wojcik said. "This is the first time I've

ever used Virtual Reality (VR) 3D tech. The biggest surprise was that I was able to go into the rendering and see the thing I drew using the headset. It looked like what I drew was right in front of me. Very cool."

GM's demonstration showed how designers used renderings in the computer to create clay scale models and then actual full-sized sculptures made of clay.

Eric Louton works at GM's de-

sign building in the Tech Center in Warren and has been with the company for 30 years.

Louton said that when he talks with students, the question that most comes up is where is this 3D technology going, and how it affects design work.

"I went to school here at MCC 30 years ago and got a job right away with GM and have been with the company ever since," Louton said. "I currently work

as a group leader in the company's Design Center doing sculpting. What we are showing students is that even in this computer age with all this wonderful 3D technology, there is still a need for literal hands-on design talent. We still need surface product engineers. It's fun to show the students how we take computer designs and render them in clay, first in scale model, then full-size," Louton concluded.



Students see how FCA exterior designer Alexander Tannan uses computers to create vehicle designs.



Student Peter Wojcik uses Virtual Reality gear to create a 3D drawing.

## T.C. Volunteers Support Troops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and I like to help where and whenever I can."

McClintock also gave a shout-out to Mike LaBaere, senior manager of Electrical Design.

"I am proud to support the ef-

forts of Shannon and the others in my department," LaBaere said. "I may have the title of boss, but she and her colleagues are the heart and soul of this event. And they make sure that it happens every year."

LaBaere said that after doing the

event for 14 years and counting, it's become something they do without having to think about it.

"This has become part of the DNA of Electrical Design," LaBaere said. "It's our contribution to supporting our troops and we are proud to do it."

## VW, Ford Ponder Idled Plants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The announcement comes a week after rival General Motors announced plans to close as many as five plants in the U.S. and Canada and lay off up to 14,000 white- and blue-collar workers.

Hackett said Ford has been able to avoid such announcements by running its operations mainly on three shifts.

"I'm really happy with where we are," he said at the company's holiday party at a manufacturing research facility in Redford Township. "We're in great shape," he said.

VW has said it's considering a new U.S. factory to build electric vehicles that the company plans for the future.

The company now builds SUVs and the Volkswagen Passat mid-size car at a factory in Chattanooga, Tenn., but imports the rest of its vehicles.

Ford and VW also are in talks about an alliance to build commercial vehicles that could lead to other ventures.

Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas wrote in a note to investors Dec. 3 that Ford could lay off as many as 25,000 workers as it restructures to make itself leaner.

Neither Hackett nor Ford would say if Jonas' number was too high, but Hackett said the number did not come from Ford.

Bill Ford said it bothers him that many employees are worried about losing their jobs under the \$11 billion restructuring.

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Contact us:  
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Deadline: Thursday 5:00 p.m.  
for the next edition of Monday

William Springer II, publisher  
Lisa A. Torretta, operations  
Jim Stickford, news

Tech Center News is a registered  
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www.TechCenterNews.com

### Library Doings

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., the Warren Civic Center Library will host the free program, "Holidaze." Tweens and teens are invited to relax and make an upcycled ornament or two for the upcoming holidays and winter season. Call 586-751-0770 to register. Ages 10 to 17. This is a parent-free event.

On Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 at 6 p.m., the Warren Civic Center Library will host the free program, Anime Club for teens. Space is limited. Call 586-751-0770 to register.

Teens only as this is meant to be a "parent-free event," said librarian Jennifer Lund.

## Funeral Train Engine 4141

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where Union Pacific's special "4141" engine pulled the funeral train and transported Bush to Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, the site of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, where he was laid to rest.

Union Pacific first paid tribute to President George H.W. Bush back in 2005 with a custom-painted locomotive that incorporated colors and elements of the Air Force One used during Mr. Bush's presidency.

The Union Pacific locomotive bears the number 4141 (UP 4141), in honor of the 41st president was revealed to the former president during a ceremony near the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on the Texas A&M University campus in College Station at a ceremony celebrating to the grand opening of "Trains: Tracks of the Iron Horse," on Nov. 7, 2005, at the Bush Library.

According to Union Pacific, UP 4141 marks only the sixth time

that Union Pacific has painted a locomotive in colors other than the traditional UP "Armour Yellow" paint. The exhibit covered the rich technological, social and economic history of the railroad industry.

Union Pacific 4141 is an EMD SD70ACe locomotive owned by Union Pacific. It is this engine that completed the last portion of the late president's journey.

EMD, also known as Electro-Motive Diesel, is now owned by Caterpillar Inc., but prior to that was the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors.

According to American-Rails.com, EMD originally began as the Electro-Motive Corporation, a privately owned company being based out of Cleveland, Ohio that built inexpensive motorcars beginning in 1922. With the purchase of the company in 1930 by General Motors, and more resources at its disposal the company began developing the precursor of the modern-day diesel-electric road unit (cabs and road-switchers).

Caterpillar purchased the company in 2010.

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## Transplant Facilities are Concentrating on SUV Production

### Foreign Automakers Follow the Trend Away From Building Sedans

The popularity of SUVs is not limited to American vehicles.

OEMs with production facilities have dedicated a lot of their capacity to making SUVs, CUVs and pickup trucks, said IHS analyst Stephanie Brinley.

“The trend for automakers is manufacturing close to where you sell,” Brinley said. “So we see automakers like BMW, which is known for its sedans, making SUVs at its South Carolina plant.”

In August, Cox Automotive reported that passenger cars accounted for less than 30 percent of vehicles sales in a single month for the first time in history. Charlie Chesbrough, senior economist for Cox, noted that it was only a few years ago that passenger cars made up more than 50 percent of vehicle sales.

He added that Toyota, Nissan and Honda, OEMs noted for their passenger car sales, all reported sharp declines. In August of this year sales of mid-size and compact cars fell 15.6 percent and

13.6 percent to 130,000 and 160,000 vehicles, respectively, according to Cox Automotive.

Given this news, it makes sense that transplant OEMs are building more SUVs, CUVs and pickups in the United States, Brinley said. So when automakers like BMW build new plants in the United States, it is only logical that they facilities are geared toward SUVs and CUVs. This change got its start back during the 2000s. The question of whether SUVs are a trend or a fad has been answered.

“We have entered into a new market for consumer preferences,” Brinley said. “And this means fewer sedans. We’ve passed the point where this can be considered a trend. We’ve entered into a new normal.”

An examination of what’s being built in the U.S. at the transplant assembly plants bears this idea out, Brinley said. BMW’s plant in Greer, S.C., has built sedans, but its main output is the X3 Series.

Brinley said that she can’t predict the future but if she had to guess, in the future more SUVs, pickups and CUVs will be manufactured at the transplant production facilities.

Here is a breakdown of non-passenger car vehicles, including SUVs, CUVs, minivans and pickup trucks, made at transplant facilities in the United States.

#### Honda

Sold in 2017: 1.486 million vehicles for 8.62 percent of U.S. marketshare.

- Honda CR-V, a compact SUV sold 377,000. It was made at Honda Manufacturing of Indiana.
- Honda Odyssey. Made at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. The minivan sold 100,307 in 2017.
- Honda Pilot. This mid-size SUV is made at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. Sold 127,279.
- Honda Ridgeline. This Sport

Utility Truck is made in Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. It sold 34,749 in 2017.

- Acura MDX. Made in the East Liberty Plant. Sold 54,886.
- Acura RDX. Made in the East Liberty Plant. Sold 51,295.

#### Toyota

Toyota sold 2.129 million vehicles in 2017, accounting for a 12.35 percent of the U.S. marketshare.

- Toyota Highlander. This mid-size crossover SUV is made in Toyota Manufacturing Indiana. They sold 215,775.
- The Toyota Sequoia full-size SUV sold 12,156 in 2017. It was made at Toyota Manufacturing Indiana.
- Toyota Sienna sold 111,489 in 2017. The minivan is made at Toyota Manufacturing Indiana.
- Toyota Tacoma. The mid-size pickup truck sold 8,124 in 2017. It is made at Toyota Manufacturing Texas.

- Toyota Tundra. This full-size pickup sold 116,285 in 2017. It is made at Toyota Manufacturing Texas.

#### BMW

Overall, BMW sold 305,685 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017, for a total marketshare of 1.77 percent. The named vehicles were made at Greer, S.C.

- BMW X3. The company sold 40,691 of the compact luxury SUV.
- BMW X4. The company sold 5,198 of the compact luxury SUV.
- BMW X5. The company sold 50,815 of the mid-size luxury SUV.
- BMW X6. The company sold 6,780 of the luxury crossover.

#### Daimler AG

The company sold about 372,000 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017, for 2.16 percent of the

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## Barra Talks About GM Plans With Washington Politicians

by PADMANANDA RAMA and JULIE CARR SMYTH  
Associated Press



Mary Barra

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three Ohio congressmen met with the head of General Motors Dec. 5 in Washington in their bid to keep an assembly plant from closing, urging her to give auto workers a chance at a new line of electric vehicles soon headed into production.

GM recently announced it will stop making the Chevy Cruze at its Lordstown, Ohio, plant by March and is considering closing the plant for good. It’s part of a massive restructuring for the Detroit-based automaker.

Republican Sen. Rob Portman and Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown said they urged GM chief executive Mary Barra to keep the plant open to avoid devastating consequences for Ohio’s Mahoning Valley. She also met with Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, whose district includes the plant.

“Just as the workforce has stood with General Motors over the years, we expect GM to stand

with these workers — and give them a chance,” Portman told reporters after the meeting.

Brown added, “This is the best GM assembly plant work force in all of North America. We know the impact this has on the Valley.”

Already, 3,000 jobs have been eliminated at the plant since the beginning of 2017. GM has about 1,500 workers left at the Lordstown plant.

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## Transplants Trending Away From Sedans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

marketshare. All vehicles made in the country were made at its Mercedes-Benz International in Alabama facility.

- The Mercedes GLE Classis sold 54,595 of the luxury SUV crossover.
- Mercedes-Benz GLS Class. This full-size SUV sold 32,248 in the U.S.

### Volvo

Volvo makes the S60 SUV at its factory in South Carolina. The vehicle was new last year and Volvo only sold 16,825. Sales for 2018 are expected to be much higher.

### Volkswagen

VW sold about 340,000 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017, accounting for about 1.97

percent of the domestic market.

- VW Atlas. This mid-size SUV was made in VW Chattanooga Assembly. The company sold 27,119.

### Hyundai

Hyundai sold 664,000 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017, accounting for 3.86 percent of marketshare.

- Hyundai Santa Fe. This mid-size SUV was made at Kia Manufacturing of Georgia and the company sold 133,171.

### Kia Motor Company

Kia sold 589,000 vehicles in the U.S. market in 2017, accounting for 3.42 percent of marketshare.

- Kia Sorento. The mid-size SUV accounted for 99,684 in sales. It was made at Kia Manufacturing of Georgia.

### Nissan Motor Company

Nissan sold 1.44 million vehicles in the U.S. last year, accounting for 8.35 percent of domestic marketshare.

- Nissan Frontier. The pickup truck accounted for 74,360 in sales last year. It was made in Canton, Miss.

- Nissan NV. The company sold 17,858 of this delivery van. It is made at the Canton facility.
- Nissan Pathfinder. This mid-size SUV sold 81,065 last year. It is made at the Canton facility.
- Nissan Rogue. This compact SUV is made at the company's Smyrna facility in Tennessee. Nissan sold 403,465 in 2017.
- Nissan Titan. The full-size pickup truck was made in Canton and Nissan sold 52,924.
- Infiniti QX60. Sold 40,444. Made in the Smyrna plant.

### Subaru

The company sold 647,956 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017, accounting for 3.76 percent of marketshare. It just started selling the Ascent mid-size SUV. In 2018 sales are 22,000 and the vehicle is made at Subaru of Indiana.

- Subaru Outback. This 5-door SUV sold 188,886 in 2017 and is made at Subaru of Indiana.

To view pictures of the vehicles made at transplant factories, please visit [DetroitAutoScene.com](http://DetroitAutoScene.com) and click on the front page.

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## GM's Barra Meets with Politicians

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Brown said he's enlisted the help of Republican President Donald Trump and his labor secretary, Ohio Gov.-elect Mike DeWine, in addition to a host of local officials. Brown has also reached out to sitting Republican Gov. John Kasich, who leaves office next month.

Barra said it was an "incredibly difficult" decision to place Lordstown in an "unallocated" position because it directly affects GM workers as well as retirees and their pensions.

tion because it directly affects GM workers as well as retirees and their pensions.

"We're working very hard to make sure General Motors is around for several decades in a leadership position, can provide jobs and support the communities and the stakeholders that are involved with the company," she said.

She said GM is working with the UAW to explore training and relocation opportunities.

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2020 Silverado 2500 HD

## New Silverado HD Hitting Dealerships This Winter

In these times, OEMs have to move fast to stay ahead of the market and Chevrolet has done just that with the 2020 Silverado HD.

“When the 2020 Silverado HD debuts in February 2019 it will be the most capable and most advanced Silverado HD ever,” said GM spokesman Mike Ofiara. “It will also be the third all-new Silverado model from Chevrolet in just 18 months – each designed for different customers.”

“We know the needs and priorities of heavy-duty customers are different than those of either light-duty or medium-duty customers,” said Jaclyn McQuaid, chief engineer, Silverado HD. “As such, we built a heavy-duty truck tailor-made for them that has more differentiation than ever before from light-duty models, offers advanced towing technologies to improve towing confidence and includes new features such as the integrated Bedstep, which makes it easier to access the bed while pulling a fifth-wheel trailer.”

Built at the Flint Assembly plant in Flint, the new Silverado HD’s design was meant to have a bold, sculpted form that follows its enhanced heavy-duty function, differentiating it from the light-duty Silverado, McQuaid said. In fact, the 2020 Silverado HD exterior shares only the roof with its Silverado 1500 stablemate – every other piece of sheet metal is exclusive to Silverado HD.

“We set out to make a statement with the 2020 Silverado HD and wanted to visually capture the power and capability of the truck,” said Brian Izard, lead exterior designer for Silverado HD. “The result is a truck that looks like a piece of heavy machinery

with modern, chiseled finishes and customer-focused details.”

The interior benefits from similar architectural changes made to the all-new Silverado 1500, including an additional 3 inches of legroom on crew cab models and a taller, more comfortable seating position.

Under the 2020 Silverado HD’s hood is a choice of two new powertrains: a new gasoline engine with direct injection mated to a six-speed transmission, or the Duramax Turbo-Diesel V8, which delivers 910 lb-ft of torque through a new, Allison 10-speed transmission.

The 2020 Silverado HD also will offer a new customer-focused trailering technology, as well as significant increases in towing and payload capabilities and a host of technologies and features designed specifically for heavy-duty truck customers, Ofiara said.

“GM’s focus on understanding truck customers has helped build the most successful truck franchise in the industry over the last four years,” McQuaid said. “Since introducing the industry’s first three-truck strategy with midsize, full-size light-duty and full-size heavy-duty trucks in 2014, GM has been the best-selling truck manufacturer for four consecutive years. The company has sold more than 600,000 pickups than the closest manufacturer from 2014 through the first three quarters of 2018.”

“That momentum is expected to continue with the launches of the new Colorado ZR2 Bison, the new Silverado 1500, the all-new Silverado Medium-Duty trucks and now the all-new Silverado HD models.”

The 2020 Silverado HD goes on sale in mid-2019.

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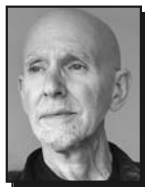
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## Chevy Engines to Power McLaren Racing

Chevy engine technology will be powering two-time Formula 1 champion Fernando Alonso will compete in the 2019 Indianapolis 500 in a McLaren Racing entry powered by Chevrolet's 2.2-liter twin-turbocharged direct-injected V6 IndyCar engine.

The Chevy engine has powered the defending winner of the Greatest Spectacle in Racing and three Indy 500 winners since its 2012 IndyCar Series introduction, said GM spokeswoman Afaf Farah.

"It will be a privilege to wear the Bowtie Brand at the 2019 Indy 500," Alonso said. "Having Chevrolet power behind me means we're putting ourselves in the best possible position to compete at the front. I had a bit of a taste of Chevy power last week in Jimmie Johnson's NASCAR and I liked it. The opportunity to contest any Indy 500 is an honor, so I'm proud to have Chevrolet as part of the team."

Alonso won F1 championships in 2005 and 2006, and is in sixth place all time in the series with 32 victories and 97 podium finishes.

"It's exciting to partner with Fernando Alonso and McLaren for the 2019 Indianapolis 500," said Jim Campbell, Chevrolet U.S. vice president of Performance Vehicles and Motorsports. "Fernando brings incredible driving talent and a passion for the sport and winning the biggest races in the world. When Fernando is on track, it's electric. He generates excitement among fans everywhere."

"Chevrolet and McLaren have a storied racing history dating back to the mid-1960s, so it will be special to partner with McLaren at the 2019 Indianapolis 500."

In 1966, Chevrolet and McLaren partnered in the Can-

Am Series and their teams won more than 70 percent of the races over the next seven years, including 23 in a row from 1968-1970, Farah said.

"McLaren and Chevrolet have a shared pedigree in North American motorsport and the opportunity to reunite the two brands for this special event was just too good to pass up," said Zak Brown, chief executive, McLaren Racing. "Like McLaren, Chevrolet has racing in its heart. The company's reputation in IndyCar and at this special race is first-class and they will be a powerful partner."

With his win in the 24 Hours of Le Mans earlier this year coupled with his win at Monaco in 2006, Alonso became one of only 13 drivers to win two of the three legs of the Triple Crown of Motorsports (Monaco, 24 Hours of Le Mans and the Indianapolis 500). With a victory in next year's Indianapolis 500 he would join Graham Hill as the only other driver to complete the treasured triumvirate, Farah said.

Since Chevrolet's return to In-



**Fernando Alonso**

dyCar Series competition seven seasons ago, drivers powered by the Chevy 2.2-liter V6 engine have captured victories in 73 of 118 races. Chevrolet has won the coveted IndyCar Manufacturer Championship six times and the series' driver and owner championships five times.

The 2019 Indianapolis 500 is scheduled for Sunday, May 26, 2019, with practice beginning on Tuesday, May 14.

## Toyota Sticking with Cars

by TOM KRISHER  
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Toyota's top U.S. executive says car sales nationwide have nearly bottomed out and his company will keep making them despite a dramatic shift to trucks and SUVs.

U.S. CEO Jim Lentz told the Detroit Economic Club Dec. 5 that car sales fell below 30 percent of sales last month, and he thinks that's close to the bottom.

While Fiat Chrysler, Ford and General Motors are canceling many car models, Lentz doesn't see that happening with Toyota. Consumers are still buying more than 4 million compact, midsize and near-luxury cars each year, he said. "There's no way I'm going to walk away from that," Lentz said. "We are always going to have a bias toward passenger cars."

Nationwide, passenger car sales are on pace to be 800,000 vehicles below 2017, while truck and SUV sales should increase by the same amount. Low fuel prices, ease of entry and exit, and ample storage space have fueled an SUV sales boom that has accelerated during the past two years.

Toyota's car sales are down nearly 12 percent through October while truck and SUV sales are up 8 percent.

Lentz said that U.S. car sales this year probably will fall below what they were in 2010 during the financial crisis. "There is a depression on the passenger car side," he said.

Still, Toyota will stay in the

market with its midsize Camry, a new compact Corolla and other models. It even plans to add a model next year when it revives the Supra sports car, he said.

Toyota made the high-performance Supra from 1978 to 2002, according to its website. The company plans to unveil the new Supra next month at the North American International Auto show in Detroit.

## Michigan Cracks Down on Drunk Driving

Officers from police departments, sheriff's offices and Michigan State Police (MSP) posts across Michigan made 6,869 traffic stops and arrested 153 drunk drivers during the recent Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over crackdown. The stepped-up enforcement campaign ran from Oct. 18 until Nov. 4, said MSP spokeswoman Kari Arend.

"Michigan law enforcement officers have zero tolerance for motorists impaired by drugs or alcohol," said Michael L. Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) director. "Motorists were warned to drive sober or get pulled over while celebrating fall activities. Unfortunately, not all motorists made the right decisions."

Preliminary reports indicate officers issued 770 speeding citations and 53 seat belt and child restraint citations during the crackdown, along with 64 felony arrests.

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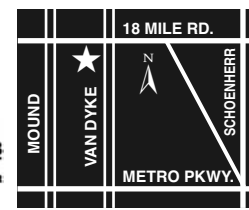
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