

Student 'Fixers' from Across Nation Gather in Dearborn to Test Auto Skills

by Gerald Scott
Editor
U.S. Auto Scene

The green space in front of Ford World Headquarters became the world's largest car garage for a day as the annual student repair contest held sway for the day on June 14.

Officially called the 2011 Ford/AAA Auto Skills Competition, the event, in its 62nd year, brought 50 two-person teams to Dearborn to compete for prizes and prestige in repairing identically "bugged" Ford F-150 pickup trucks.

At these National Finals, teams from all 50 states had their automotive skills and knowledge put to the test with a 100-question written exam and a timed event in which they raced against the clock and each other to identify glitches and repair 14 delib-

ately installed "bugs" inside identical 2011 Ford F-150 XLT trucks.

The bugs ranged from a "no start" situation to a broken horn and hood latch.

"The automotive technicians of tomorrow must be well-educated and highly skilled to meet the current and future technological advances in automotive technology," said Steve DeAngelis, Ford's global manager of Technical Support Operations in Allen Park.

"The people at Ford are committed to training and retaining the best technicians in the industry, which is why we are so proud of our continued involvement in the Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills competition, which invests in our high-skilled technicians of tomorrow."

Indeed, DeAngelis also pointed out that this year is the

first time that the contestants are using laptops to help troubleshoot the engines and systems on the bugged F-150 trucks.

The students are using the laptops to call up vehicle repair and maintenance information that previously was published in thick repair manuals and in other print formats.

Not so, anymore, DeAngelis said, so Ford auto repair work is following the global info curve as it goes digital and online in chasing failure codes and related repair information.

Likewise, AAA has long been a supporter of this endeavor.

John Nielsen, AAA national director of Approved Auto Repair, based in Orlando, Fla., was on hand to cheer the students on and help Ford and AAA run the show.

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PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

The Michigan team, from Saline High School, competed in the national Ford/AAA Auto Skills competition at Ford headquarters in Dearborn last week.

Wanna Cool Off? – Ford Says, 'Get in a Focus Electric'

DEARBORN – Ford's use of an advanced active liquid-cooling and heating system in its Focus Electric lithium-ion battery packs will provide customers in hot climates an advantage over competitive models, say Ford officials.

When charging or being used, the battery is cooled by an integrated cooling system using a "chiller" to lower the temperature of the coolant going through the battery when needed.

Ford's aggressive electrification strategy includes the launch of five electrified vehicles in North America by 2012 and Europe by 2013. The new Focus Electric – the company's first all-electric passenger car – is a zero-emissions, gasoline-free version of Ford's popular global Focus model.

When the mercury starts to rise, people have all sorts of

ways for cooling themselves down: sprinklers, lemonade and ice cream all come to mind. But the engineers at Ford have developed a system that cools the lithium-ion battery in the all-new Focus Electric and keeps it working at its prime, even in the hottest of conditions.

Extreme temperatures can affect an electric vehicle's battery performance and reduce its range. That's why Ford will use an advanced active liquid-cooling and heating system to regulate the temperature of its lithium-ion battery packs, which are designed to operate under a range of ambient conditions.

"If the battery became too hot, we would have to limit the use of energy to protect it," said Dave Fabricatore, Thermal Program Management team engineer.



2012 Ford Focus Electric

"The liquid-cooled system allows us to reduce those constraints and get the most out of the battery. We're helping owners by making sure their battery is always ready to go regardless of the weather."

The vehicle uses an integrated cooling system to keep the different systems in the vehicle at their optimal oper-

ating temperatures. The air conditioning system is actually used to refrigerate the coolant going to the battery using a "chiller," so as the coolant passes through the chiller, it's brought down to the temperature that the battery requires. Temperature sensors placed

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Ford Adds IAC to Favored Supplier Organization

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – Ford Motor Co. has added International Automotive Components (IAC) Group to its prestigious Aligned Business Framework (ABF).

ABF is a collection of suppliers selected with the long-term objective of developing business relationships based on partnership and close collaboration.

In addition, IAC received the 2010 Recognition of Achievement Award for "Consumer-Driven, Six Sigma" performance.

IAC supplies vehicle interior and exterior components and systems to customers around the world, with a strong focus on instrument panels and cockpits, door panels, overhead systems and complimentary interior and exterior resin-based products.

IAC works closely with Ford to provide innovative solutions that reduce weight, enhance interior aesthetics, increase passenger comfort and convenience, optimize acoustical performance, and improve overall consumer satisfaction.

"Through its legacy companies, IAC's business with Ford began in 1922 supplying interior products for the Ford Model T," said Jim Kamsickas, global co-CEO and president of North America and Asia, IAC Group. "We are honored to be named a Ford ABF supplier, and we look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with Ford."

IAC currently supplies an array of interior components and systems across multiple Ford product lines. Ford selects ABF suppliers based on a mutual interest in strengthening collaboration, improving profitability and technology development.

IAC also received the 2010 Recognition of Achievement

Award for "Consumer-Driven Six Sigma" performance.

IAC completed projects, with statistically significant results, which provided direct and sustained improvement on Ford vehicles.

IAC achieved these results through the use of the Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control Six Sigma methodologies able to demonstrate significant performance improvement directly linked to customer satisfaction.

Tony Brown, group vice president, Global Purchasing, said, "The One Ford transformation would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our suppliers."

"Our 2010 World Excellence Award winners have shown an unwavering commitment to excellence in technology, quality and cost efficiency. Congratulations, and thank you for helping Ford serve customers with the best vehicles in the world."

IAC recently moved its offices to Southfield.

Ford Working To Produce Vehicles That Communicate

DEARBORN – Dr. Andre Seeck, president and chairman of the European New Car Assessment Programme, visited Ford recently as the company works with global safety officials to harmonize standards for intelligent vehicles that some day could talk to each other to reduce crashes and congestion.

Ford is partnering with other automakers and governments globally to create a common language so all vehicles can talk to each other on

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Angels to Appear in the Wild Blue Yonder Over Ypsi

by Christine Snyder
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Tech Center News

There is no dearth of summer automotive events and car shows in metro Detroit, but for a change of pace, the "Thunder Over Michigan" air show gives Motowners a chance to marvel over a different kind of high-performance machinery.

The annual air show is scheduled for July 23-24 at the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport in Ypsilanti.

The world-famous military demonstration team, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, will be flying their F/A-18 Hornets to display speed, precision and daring maneuvers.

In celebration of the Navy's Centennial of Aviation, "Thunder Over Michigan" will feature more than two dozen F/A-18 Hornets from across the country. The Boeing F/A-18 is a twin-engine carrier-

based fighter aircraft that is currently flown by our U.S. Navy.

Returning this year also is the United States Air Force F-16 Viper East Demo Team, led by demo pilot Capt. Ryan "Rider" Corrigan.

The F-16CJ is a single-seat, multi-mission fighter with the ability to switch from an air-to-ground to air-to-air role at the touch of a button. It can fly at speeds in excess of Mach 2 due to its lightweight airframe and powerful General Electric engine.

Also featured this year is a realistic air and ground reenactment of a WWII Pacific theater battle featuring a live flamethrower.

Spectators will see three LVTs transporting U.S. Marines to the front lines of battle in order to maneuver a ground assault on the Japanese emplacements. Simultaneously, two Japanese Zeros will be flying cover for the Japanese troops while six U.S. Navy



The U.S. Navy Blue Angels "Thunder Over Michigan" July 23-24 at the Yankee Air Museum.

Corsairs enter the theater and engage the two enemy aircraft in multiple aerial dogfights.

Other show highlights include: a thrilling aerial dogfight between two legendary Vietnam War military aircrafts, the A-4 Skyhawk and a MIG-17.

Plus, crowds will be able to see on display and take a tour

of an MV-22 Osprey – part airplane, part helicopter – this aircraft revolutionized military air transport capabilities.

Tickets are \$25 per adult for purchases made before noon July 24 and parking is \$5 per vehicle. Tickets at the gate are \$30 for adults and parking is \$10. Children 15 years and younger are free.

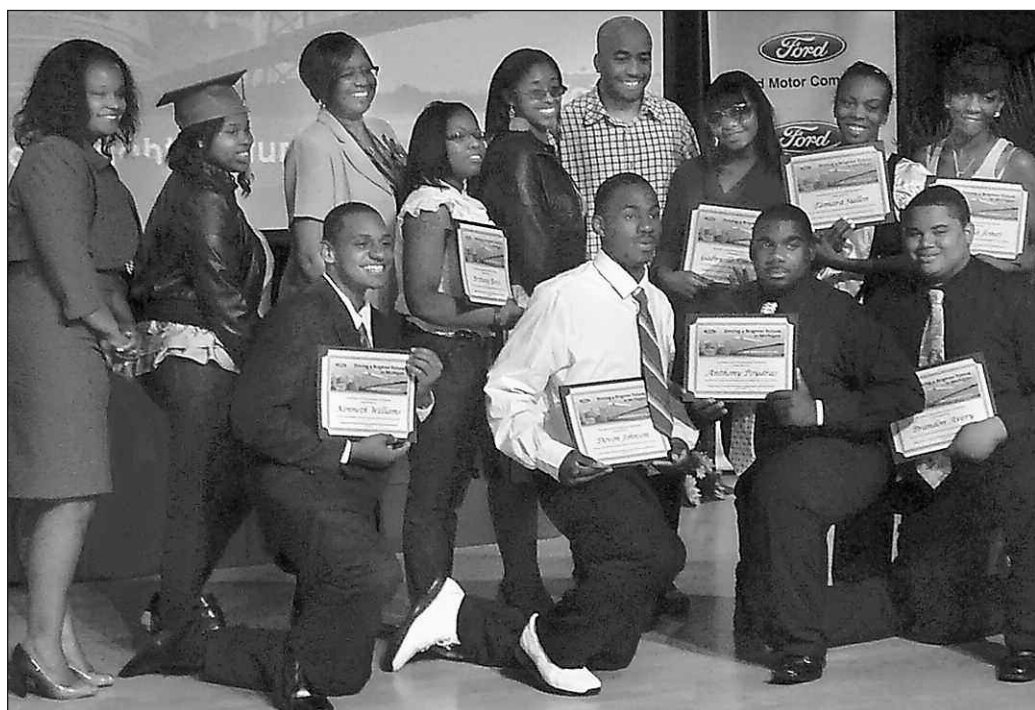


PHOTO: GERALD SCOTT

A high school class of 2011 Blue Oval Scholars poses for a group shot at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit last week.

Ford Awards 'Blue Oval' Scholarships To 106 Detroit-Area Graduating Seniors

by Gerald Scott
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Want to know the best way to put a smile on a young scholar's face?

Hand them a scholarship check to show your confidence in their abilities and their future.

Ford Motor Co. Fund and Community Services did just that last week at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, where the Fund saluted 106 Detroit-area students from 10 different high schools at its third annual "Blue Oval Scholarship" program.

Graduating seniors from high schools in Southeast Michigan with high dropout

rates – Central, Cody, Finney, Harper Woods, Mount Clemens, Northwestern, Pontiac, River Rouge, Ypsilanti and Southeastern – were eligible to apply.

This year's program added a new "Against All Odds" category for five students who excelled academically in spite of the challenges in their lives.

"Ford is proud to continue its legacy of supporting education in Southeast Michigan," said Jim Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services.

"The Blue Oval Scholarship program is one of the many ways Ford encourages high school students to strive for success and high academic achievement."

Students were feted with dinner at the museum the evening of June 13 and that was followed by the formal program, where each and every student attended and walked across the stage to receive their certificates of achievement representing their actual scholarships.

Thus, scholarships ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 were awarded at the ceremony and several high-achieving students even received rare \$4,000 scholarships.

Communities in Schools is one of the nation's largest such dropout prevention organizations and works at more than 3,000 public schools across the country.

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