

# ‘Connected Car Of the Year’ Is Awarded To Cadillac XTS

DETROIT – *Connected World* magazine awarded the Cadillac XTS a Connected Car of the Year award in the luxury category.

Available in late spring 2012, the new XTS will debut Cadillac CUE, a comprehensive in-vehicle experience that merges intuitive design with auto industry-first controls and commands for information and media.

“Rather than just looking for power, speed, and performance, a connected car means turn-by-turn directions, voice-activated controls, and precollision systems,” says Peggy Smedley, editorial director, *Connected World*. “Car buyers now want it all under one hood and in the cabin.”

CUE, which stands for Cadillac User Experience, is a highly customizable user interface, including a standard eight-inch screen in the “center stack.”

CUE features several auto industry firsts, including capacitive-touch control with proximity sensing, gesture recognition and natural voice recognition.

The intuitive touch interface used in CUE is the same technology employed by many of today’s most popular handheld phones and tablets.

Designed for both tech savvy and tech averse users, it allows consumers to securely store those mobile devices while channeling the information on those devices, along with navigation tools, weather maps with Doppler radar and AM/FM and XM radio.

In addition to CUE, the XTS will debut a network of safety cameras, radar and ultrasonic sensors to bolster driver vision and awareness of road hazards and intervene to help avert potential crashes.

In some cases, Cadillac’s enhanced vision and sensing systems will act without the driver, such as through automatic braking based on information indicating potential obstacles.

The Connected Car of the Year awards honor vehicles with technology that strike the right balance of safety, convenience, and infotainment.

Chosen by the editorial team at *Connected World* magazine, the 2012 winners were named in small, mid-size, luxury, and ultra-luxury automobile categories.

Cadillac, by the way, is coincidentally celebrating the 100th anniversary of the introduction of the electric starter in cars.

# Macomb College Students Display ‘Green T’ E85 Hot Rod at Autorama

by Jennifer Knightstep  
Special Writer

What do you get when every component of an automotive team – engineering, design, fabrication, manufacturing, and even graphic design – works together on a special project?

The answer: a 1923 Ford T-bucket hot rod fueled by E85 ethanol gas, otherwise known as the “Green T.”

It’s the first of several alternative-fuel vehicles developed and built at Macomb Community College that were on display last week at Autorama.

The Green T is the poster child for the success of an efficient, streamlined process and a team that communicates well.

Under the direction of professors Jim Carlson and Gary Walters at Macomb’s south campus in Warren, the Green T took more than six months to build, from concept to kit to completion.

Carlson couldn’t be more proud of how well the students, culled from seven different disciplines, worked together on the very hands-on Green T project.

“Technical knowledge is important,” he said, “and the students are all very proficient there, but what really impressed me is how well they did hands-on, working together, figuring out the process, creating a very lean team.”

Walters agrees, and adds that everything the students learned will be directly applied in their chosen careers, and that the hands-on experience will be very valuable.

“These students will hit the ground running,” he says, “The experience they got on the Green T project will give them a competitive edge.”

The professors and their students had worked on smaller projects, but nothing on the scale of the Green T.

The Green T initiative allowed the MCC students to immerse themselves in both automotive nostalgia in terms of a 1923 Ford bucket road-



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The 1923 Ford T-Bucket “Green T” at Autorama. The Green T, built from the ground up by students at Macomb Community College, runs on modern E85 ethanol.

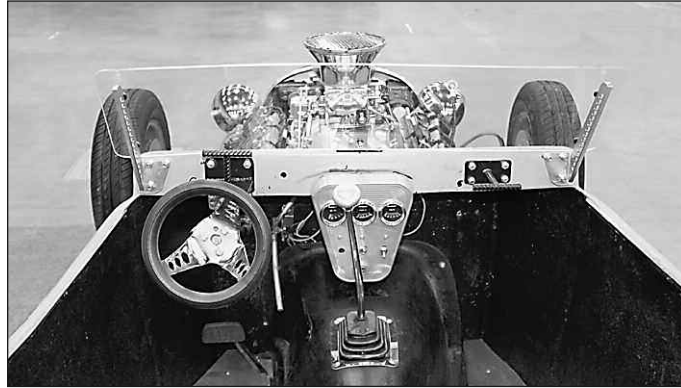


PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The Green T bucket interior, looking forward toward the engine. Macomb College students built the best of both old and new into this ‘23 Ford, combining auto design nostalgia with modern fuels.

ster exterior design, combined with modern fuel economy powertrain that uses E85 ethanol as its power source.

E85, of course, is a fuel that is 85 percent

From the start, Carlson and Walters knew the project had to be led by the students, supervised by the professors from a distance.

Step one was securing a chassis and a hot rod kit, both from NEHR Speedcraft in Livonia.

Tom Kuhr at NEHR Speedcraft worked closely with Carlson and Walters to make sure they had the right kit and chassis, and even helped the students streamline the build process.

“NEHR Speedcraft was instrumental in getting the Green T project off the ground, and heading in the right direction,” says Walters.



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

The Macomb Community College “Green T” hot rod with, left to right, MCC Engineering professor Jim Carlson, NEHR Speedcraft’s Tom Kuhr, and MCC Applied Technology professor Gary Walters.

nication was key, notes Carlson, adding, “The design team would send something to the engineering team, who would look at it and say, ‘You can’t put electrical here,’ and they’d work together to find a solution.”

Once the design and engineering were complete, the fabrication team stepped in and physically built several parts of the Green T, and the graphic arts team and marketing team got to work, too.

The end result is an extremely cool, retro-inspired alternative-fuel vehicle, which runs on E85 ethanol, a renewable “green” energy source, lending the Green T its nickname.

The Green T may be environmentally-friendly, but it’s not a demure wallflower.

“The Green T sounds impressive,” says Carlson with a grin, “with its uncapped head-

ers, it’s incredible.”

Then he gets serious, and adds that this project, and other projects in the works, are to him, and to his students, what’s special about Detroit.

“These vehicles,” he said, “like the Green T, are what Detroit is all about: excitement. We’re looking to the future, and the future of Detroit, with these students, is going to be something.”

What’s next for these professors and their very eager students?

“We’re working on something really special,” says Walters. “Keep an eye out for our battery electric vehicle, the BEV27.”

Autorama, traditionally a showplace for “car-polished” classic cars and roadsters, is lately becoming a test-bed for genuine auto technology and engineering by MCC students.

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