

# Tech Center News™

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## GM Executive Scott Is 2012 ATHENA Award Winner

by Jennifer Knightstep  
Special Writer

Another streak has been broken.

For over a decade, the Macomb Foundation has presented the annual ATHENA Award, celebrating the one individual in Macomb County who most passionately forwards the idea that women deserve to achieve their full potential as business leaders.

Previous ATHENA Award recipients have included business leaders from a range of industries, including health care and education, but it's been 11 years since anyone from the automotive industry was honored.

This year, however, that

streak was stopped when the Macomb Foundation chose Mari Kay Scott, General Motors executive director of Real Estate & Facilities, as the 2012 ATHENA Award recipient.

Scott certainly deserves the distinction. In her role as GM's first female executive director in its facilities division, she leads a team of thousands who handle everything from day-to-day facility maintenance to multi-million-dollar real estate transactions.

On a more personal level, Scott has mentored several women over the years; most recently, low-income students from Detroit Cristo Rey High School.

She's also the executive chair of the GM Affinity Group for Women and Women in Manufacturing, and she's organized GM's Dress for Success event, which provides women the skills and attire they need to ace a job interview.

It's difficult to imagine an ATHENA recipient more worthy of the award, though Scott herself demurs at the suggestion.

"To be nominated was a surprise," Scott said before the winner was announced at the award ceremony on May 4.

"I do what I can to encourage young women, especially in math and science, but I really feel like I could do more . . . and I will . . . To have my work acknowledged by a team member, Robert (Allen), to be nominated, really means a lot."

Grace Shore, Macomb Foundation CEO, felt Scott was an ideal nominee, noting as she announced Scott as the winner that she "actively and generously encourages women in business."

In a statement, Shore elaborated, "Mari Kay Scott embodies the ideals of the ATHENA Award. Her leadership and dedication are an inspiration to us all."

This year's other nominees included Anne Cramer and



PHOTO: JENNIFER KNIGHTSTEP

GM executive Mari Kay Scott was a recipient of the 2012 Athena Award. She is the executive director of Real Estate & Facilities for GM worldwide. Scott works at the GM Tech Center in Warren.

Jackie Lovejoy of Davenport University, State Representative Marilyn Lane, Jennifer Mefford of the IBEW NECA, Diana Rascano of DTE Energy, Nancy Susick of Beaumont Hospital, Olga Tecos of LaModa Salon, Don Torline of Baker College of Clinton Township, Maggie Varney of Wigs 4 Kids, and Debra Wurmlinger of My Friends Care.

Shore was delighted with all of the nominees, sure that each of them deserved the distinction, which made selecting one sole winner difficult.

"The process was blind this year, meaning that anything that could help the selection committee identify the individual nominees was redacted from the nomination forms," she said.

"When we looked at all of the nominees, they were strikingly similar in that each of them worked so hard this past year to encourage women in realizing their full leadership potential.

"Of course, Mari Kay stands out in her efforts, but all of the nominees are VIPs in my book," she said.

## SAE Detroit Section Hosts Ford Event

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. - SAE Detroit Section will host the 2013 Ford Escape Vehicle Event at Ford Conference & Event Center in Dearborn on Tuesday, May 22.

The program begins with a social hour hosted by Magna International, Inc. at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the feature presentation at 7:30 p.m.

Presenters from Ford Motor Co. will include Hau Thai-Tang, Vice President, Engineering, Global Product Development; Eric Loefer, Global Chief Engineer, Ford Escape and Kuga; and Scott Makowski, manager, Global Large

Four-Cylinder Engine programs.

"This Vehicle Event provides the SAE Detroit Section an opportunity to congratulate Ford Motor Co. on their latest success with global execution in manufacturing the Ford Escape," said Brian Sangeorzan, 2012 SAE Detroit Section Chair.

"We are excited to learn about the design strategies that demonstrate the performance and styling characteristics to exceed the customer's expectations."

In the major redesign of the Escape for model year 2013, Ford took a good thing and

made it better, according to SAE organizers.

That is to say, the Escape was already one of the best-selling vehicles in the mid-size SUV class, but Ford nonetheless dared to offer a major exterior redesign, as well as select interior improvements, all to create an entirely new package for their customers, shifting from the 2012 and earlier "boxy" lookon the Escape to the ultra-modern, rounded design look on the 2013 and beyond.

Ford engineers will be able to discuss and answer questions about how and why Ford tuned the 2013 Escape.

## Pratt & Miller Expands Beyond Racing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tion that we have, we've been able to translate some of the smart technologies into advanced automotive, and also defense applications.

"So, vehicle lightweighting, reliability, durability, rugged-

izing things like suspensions, redesigning chassis and body work are the kinds of things we do for vehicles."

Pratt & Miller's engineering and analysis work for defense includes a wide range of tools including packaging/architecture design, 3D Solids/Para-

metric CAD, reverse engineering, industrial design, structure optimization, weight reduction, durability/fatigue analysis and much more.

Their defense applications apply to Tactical Wheeled Vehicles, Tracked Vehicles, Robotics/Unmanned Systems, Trailers, Fleet Resetting, Missile Systems and the like.

"So our facility is soup to nuts: clean-sheet design, to development, to concepting and prototype manufacturing.

"We do not do commodity work, we also do not do volume-anything. But if you're looking for a full-system prototype or a piece-part prototype, we can absolutely do that. Small quantity volume we can do."

Asked which was busier, defense or automotive, Blackmer replied:

"We started as racing, we've been in racing since 1989 but exclusive to GM since 2005."

"We still do probably 60 percent of our business is racing, and the other 40 percent is split between advanced automotive and defense.

"Say it's more defense this year than automotive, but that fluctuates depending on market needs."

## Local Supplier to Add 450 Jobs

NEW BOSTON, Mich. (AP) - An auto parts supplier says it plans to buy a manufacturing facility in Southeast Michigan and add about 450 jobs in the state.

Brose North America Inc. last week announced an agreement to buy the 380,000-square-foot facility in New Boston, near Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

The company says it will be

its third facility in Michigan and will be its ninth in North America. It's increasing its capacity for door modules and seat structures.

Brose North America's regional headquarters is in Auburn Hills but it also has a presence in Warren, Mich., as well. Brose officials said this announcement also reflects a boost in customer demand for their products.

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