

Detroit Auto Scene

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2013 Fusion Earns Best Family Vehicle

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The two rallies feature up to 100 vehicles for participating journalists to drive and evaluate.

A field of 79 automotive journalists propelled the Fusion into the number one slot. With 17 first-place votes and 78 total points, the Fusion edged out the 2013 Honda Accord, which received 11 first-place votes and 62 total points, and the 2013 Mazda CX-5, placing third with 59 total points.

In each round of voting, three points were awarded for a first-place vote, two points for a second-place vote and one point each for third-place votes.

"I think the new Fusion is certainly a beautiful car. It brings a sense of style to the mostly mundane mid-size car market"

Chrysler Engineer Credits Role Models for Earning Visionary of Year Award

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"I am very appreciative of this recognition of my career accomplishments."

"Larry is an accomplished engineer and exceptional leader who approaches both life and work with passion, using his breadth of experience to create exceptional products while being committed to the development of young, talented engineers in our company," said Mark M. Chernoby, Chrysler's senior vice president, Engineering.

"Larry's vision, drive and technical expertise has made him a valuable member of the Chrysler Engineering Team and a respected leader across the company."

Williams, who joined Chrysler Corporation in 1985 as a product development engineer, was born and raised in Detroit and currently resides in Beverly Hills, Mich. He shared some thoughts on his career at Chrysler in a recent interview.

"Receiving the award was a tremendous honor," he said. "I had mixed emotions – I was humbled but at the same time very, very excited to be recognized. That was tremendous . . . When I look back, I could not have imagined a better career than what I've had."

"I've had the benefit of working with multiple components, multiple vehicles."

"I've had a chance to work with some of the best leaders in the world."

"I've had a chance to study and work in different countries – I couldn't have written a better script, and I really appreciate the

opportunity that Chrysler has given me."

Williams mentioned a key principle leading to his success: An understanding of the difference between fate and destiny.

"Fate is the conditions in which you were born – when, where, and what's going on in the world, and some of the challenges that you face; whereas, destiny is what you make out of your life in spite of fate, and I've always kept that in mind," he said. "You can control your destiny but you can't control your fate."

Prior to his current assignment, Williams served as chief engineer for the Chrysler 200 from January to July 2011, where he was charged with achieving all technical, functional and financial measurements while managing a large-scale investment budget.

From September 2009 to December 2010, Williams was senior product development executive in charge of similar aspects of the Dodge Journey.

In this capacity, Williams developed and coordinated a product development plan that delivered the 2011 Journey from concept to product in 14 months, which reduced product lead time by 38 percent and established a new corporate benchmark.

In his capacity as director of Interior Engineering for Chrysler, Williams spoke with passion about the importance of vehicle interior fit and finish as Chrysler employees continue to



Byron Green, left, Chrysler's vice president of Vehicle Manufacturing Engineering, presents Visionary award to Larry Williams, director, Chrysler's Interior Engineering.

make strides in these areas.

"We want our interiors to be what I call 'the gift that keeps on giving,'" he said.

"That is, every time you open that car door up and sit in that seat and look around inside, it reminds you of why you bought that car."

"Cars are a combination of an emotional purchase and also

sometimes it's a need, but either way, we want that interior to be a rewarding experience, every time you sit in it, look at it, smell it and touch it."

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