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2014 Jeep Wrangler Dragon edition

Jeep to Debut the 'Dragon'

On the heels of last year's introduction of the Jeep Wrangler Dragon Design Concept, Jeep is now unveiling the new 2014 Wrangler Dragon Edition.

The new Jeep Wrangler Dragon, said spokesman Patrick Hespden, will be a limited-production special edition, available in Jeep showrooms in North America this fall.

"When we introduced the Jeep Wrangler Dragon Design Concept last year (at the Beijing International Automotive Exposition), we received tremendously positive feedback," said Mike Manley, president and CEO - Jeep Brand. "Our loyal Jeep enthusiasts

asked us to build this unique Wrangler, and we are delivering exactly what they've asked for. The new 2014 Jeep Wrangler Dragon Edition boasts a stunning, unique, upscale design with styling cues that make it unlike any Wrangler ever seen before."

The dragon symbolizes strength and power and is an aspirational character normally associated with royalty and good fortune, Hespden said. It was these characteristics that inspired the upscale design of the Jeep Wrangler Dragon Edition.

Based on the Jeep Wrangler Sa-

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Chevy: 7 Vehicles with Top NHTSA Ratings

Seven Chevrolet models have received 5-Star Overall Vehicle Scores for safety from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

That's more than any other brand and more than Ford and Toyota combined, said Sharon Basel, GM Communications manager for Environment, Energy and Safety.

In New Car Assessment Program testing, NHTSA gave its highest possible 5-star overall score to the Chevrolet Sonic, Cruze, Volt, Impala, Traverse, Camaro Coupe and Silverado 1500 Crew Cab. Sonic is the first and only car in the subcompact class to receive a 5-Star overall score, said Basel.

Federal motor vehicle safety standards and safety regulations are included in the design and performance requirements for every new Chevrolet vehicle, Basel said.

About 40 percent of the crash load cases are based on regulatory requirements, with the remaining 60 percent based on General Motors' internal requirements for vehicle safety and crashworthiness, which exceed federal requirements.

According to GM research, safety ranks among the top 10 reasons for purchase. The 2012 calendar year sales data shows that 54 percent of Chevrolet,

Cadillac, GMC and Buick buyers surveyed listed safety features as an "extremely important" purchase consideration. The same percentage of buyers industry-wide also listed safety features as "extremely important."

"We design safety and crashworthiness into our vehicles very early in development," said Gay Kent, GM's general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness. "We are committed to offering advanced safety technologies on a broad range of models, not just on the most expensive vehicles. All of our vehicles are

designed to provide continuous protection for customers before, during and after a crash."

Active safety technologies, including forward collision alert and lane departure warning, are designed to help the driver avoid a crash before it happens, Basel said. These and other advanced technologies are available on many new Chevrolet vehicles - from small cars to big trucks. Silverado offers the new Safety Alert Seat that pulses to alert the driver of potential hazards.

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2014 Chevy Camaro Coupe



2014 Chevy Impala



2014 Chevy Traverse

Lack of Skilled Workers Hampers Growth

The greatest challenge for Oakland County and Metro Detroit employers to overcome is the virtually non-existent pipeline of young workers to fill available jobs and insufficient training programs to meet current demand.

That observation comes from a report called the Skills Needs Assessment Project (SNAP), which was based on a survey sent manufacturers in Oakland and surrounding counties.

The results of the study were released by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson at a meeting of about 250 employers, educators and community leaders at the Troy Marriott Hotel on Sept. 25, during a conference called "Business Works in Oakland County."

The study's purpose was to determine how to improve manufacturing capabilities in Oakland County and metro Detroit.

The Sept. 25 conference provided Patterson, the Oakland County Workforce Development Board and the Michigan Works! program with a chance to discuss the survey and some of the services available to employees and employers.

The survey found that increased technical skills for job applicants and better worker recruitment techniques for employers are recommended to help advanced manufacturers fill job openings.

"I think we've hit a raw nerve with the survey," Patterson said. "We now have documented evidence for employers as to the skills they need to put people to work in good paying jobs."

The 48-page survey provided an in-depth look at advanced manufacturing and how educators can best prepare their cur-

ricula and students for employment in that field, said Steve Huber, Marketing and Communications officer for the county's Department of Economic Development and Community Affairs.

The survey also identified the skills and education that job seekers need to qualify for one of a host of attractive advanced manufacturing opportunities. And, it identified the top 14 jobs in advanced manufacturing, the median salary, the educational requirements and the number of job openings expected from now until 2018.

The survey said the most difficult job to fill was mechanical engineer, followed by tool-and-die makers and machinists, Huber said. The complete report is available online at www.AdvantageOakland.com.

"We've been attempting to rebuild an economy by trading employees between companies," said Deputy County Executive Matthew Gibb. "We hear every day that this company or that company is taking five employees from someone else instead of addressing the core issue."

"We have a lack of interest in training in careers that are the very backbone of our economy here. We have to quit trading employees like baseball cards and get them interested in these careers like those available in advanced manufacturing."

Advanced manufacturing was chosen because of the significant job growth expected in that sector within the next three years and because companies have been unable to operate at full capacity because they can't find skilled workers, Huber said.

University of Michigan Economists George Fulton and Don

Grimes predicted in an economic forecast of job growth that advanced manufacturing will add 4,125 jobs by 2015. Patterson and the Workforce Development Board determined that advanced manufacturing should be examined to help answer why demand far outweighed the supply of qualified workers and provide possible solutions.

Among the issues:

- The pipeline of qualified employees that once met the needs of advanced manufacturers no longer exists;

- Advanced manufacturing jobs require strong basic and technical skills. Employers said they can't find qualified workers for current job openings and future opening will go unfilled.

"Employers have told us they're ready to hire, they want to hire, but they can't find enough qualified applicants to fill these high-paying jobs," Patterson said. "These are jobs that will go unfilled unless we find qualified workers."

EdEn Inc., the Rochester-based research firm that conducted the survey, said the results showed an increasing level of technical knowledge is critical for jobs, regardless of education level, Huber said. They also revealed that not all employers use the most modern methods when recruiting potential employees.

"Some companies are still putting a sign out in front of the business looking for employees instead of using social media or more modern techniques," Gibb said. "We've got to do better."

The survey focused on the region of the Economic Growth Alliance: Genesee, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland and St. Clair counties and also Wayne.



Army's Ultra Light Vehicle Research Prototype

U.S. Army Testing Platform For Future Military Vehicles

While no military strategist can predict with absolute certainty where future conflicts might happen, Army researchers have designed a vehicle that's fuel-efficient, versatile and survivable in nearly any environment.

At the U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) in Warren, final testing is beginning on an Ultra Light Vehicle (ULV) Research Prototype to meet a wide range of military challenges.

Mike Karaki, program manager for the ULV, said the ULV vehicle platform includes technologies to equip soldiers for missions across a full spectrum of mobility challenges while keeping occupants safe and using fuel efficiently.

Karaki said the information the U.S. Army is gaining from testing the new technologies will be

used for future military vehicle development and design.

"This is not a vehicle going into production, it's a test platform for the development of technology and systems for future military vehicles," said Bruce Huffman, TARDEC Public Affairs spokesman.

Funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the ULV project was set up to design, develop and build three identical lightweight tactical research prototypes emphasizing survivability for occupants and meeting four research objectives:

- Payload - 4,500 lbs.;
- Performance - at 14,000 lbs. curb weight;
- Protection - comparable to the currently fielded Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles;
- Price - \$250,000 each in a

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Contact us at news@detroitautoscene.com