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Students from Loara High School in Anaheim Win Orange County Auto Tech Competition; Advance to National Competition in New York

Scholarships Worth \$69,000 and a New Vehicle Were Awarded at the 23rd Annual Competition

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (Mar. 1, 2016) – After months of intense training and study, two high school students from Anaheim, Calif., proved they had what it takes to become champions. On Sat., Feb. 27, Andrew Ashteenyan and Azat Barsoumian, who are in the North Orange County ROP program at Loara High School, prevailed at the 23rd annual Automotive Technology Competition, sponsored by the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association (OCADA). Now they will continue their rigorous training before they head to New York at the end of this month to represent Orange County in the National Automotive Technology Competition.

In addition to the trip to New York, Ashteenyan and Barsoumian won a \$1,500 OCADA scholarship to any local Orange County community college, and a \$10,000 scholarship to Ohio Technical College. Their win also benefitted their school with Kia Motors America giving a Kia K900 to the school's automotive technology program.

Scholarships were awarded to each student who participated in the competition. Those students came from Buena Park High School, High School Inc., La Habra High School, Mission Viejo High School and San Clemente High School. In total, \$69,000 in scholarships were provided by OCADA, California New Car Dealers Association, and Ohio Technical College.

The Automotive Technology Competition, which was held at Kia Motors America in Irvine, pitted six teams of two students each from Orange County high schools. In just one hour each team strived to find, diagnose and correct 25 various malfunctions and restore the vehicles back to perfection, with each restored malfunction earning their team points. The hands-on competition is the culmination of arduous testing and long training sessions that began last fall with over 100 students.

The goal of the OCADA Automotive Technology Competition is to recognize the technical expertise of these students and to introduce them to the possibilities available with a career in automotive technology. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that 3,900 Auto Tech jobs will need to be filled annually through 2024. Just as in any other high tech industry, the demand is high for employees with the expert skill set required to diagnose and repair the sophisticated new-model cars and trucks. The competition also connects these students to the colleges and scholarships that can further their education and develop their talents. By partnering with the dealerships they can test-drive a career with excellent job security and salary opportunities that are well over \$100,000.

About the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association

Established in 1938, the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association serves the more than 120 franchised new vehicle dealers in Orange County. The association represents the interests of member dealers and strives to provide them with information and services that enhance their collective businesses.

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