

ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION TO BECOME “AMERICA’S TOP TECHNICIANS”

Team from Loara High School ROP in Anaheim Takes First Place; Local Officials Will Honor Students at School Rally on Thurs., April 15

ANAHEIM and FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (April 13, 2010) -- Jonathan Greenhalgh and Ben Hicks, students with the Loara High School ROP program in Anaheim, Calif., took first place at the 2010 National Automotive Technology Competition held April 6-7 during the New York International Automobile Show. The Loara team, sponsored by the Orange County (Calif.) Automobile Dealers Association (OCADA), competed in the auto industry’s largest school-to-work initiative, which pits the nation’s best high school automotive vocational education students against one another for the title of “America’s Top Technician.”

The team, which is part of the North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (ROP), was led by instructor, Russ Bacarella. Major support came from OCADA and Toyota of Orange, which provided on-site training and support for five months leading up to the competition.

A special school rally to honor the team will be held at Loara High School on Thurs., Apr. 15, at 10 a.m. Some of the dignitaries who will attend include officials from the offices of *Congresswomen Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), State Senator Lou Correa (D-Orange County), Anaheim Mayor Curt Pringle*, and officials from the *Anaheim Union School District, North County Regional Occupational Program (ROP)*, and the *Orange County Automobile Dealers Association*.

During the past 17 years, OCADA has sponsored a local Orange County automotive technology competition where local high school teams compete to win scholarships and the chance to compete at the national level in New York. Toyota of Orange and one of their master technicians, Gary Upton, invested more than 100 hours to train and prepare the winning team for both competitions. The dealership also provided a vehicle upon which to train and test their knowledge and problem-solving skills.

“This outstanding team from Loara High School is an illustration of how these students’ dedication and hard work combined with an extremely passionate teacher can culminate in tremendous success,” said John Sackrison, executive director, Orange County Automobile

Dealers Association. “In addition to the scholarships they have won, the competition affords them the opportunity to experience firsthand the careers within a growing field with excellent job security and economic opportunities.”

The U.S. Department of Labor says job opportunities in this occupation are “very good” and the industry is expected to add 11,000 jobs annually through 2016. To become an automotive technician requires two years of post secondary education and further training and certifications are provided while employed at a dealership. Automotive technicians can make upwards of \$100,000 annually and is a field high in demand.

The national competition receives support from more than 125 industry sponsors including automakers, industry organizations, original equipment manufacturer (OEM) suppliers, educational institutions, and dealers associations from across the country. This year, prizes and scholarships totaling more than \$3 million were awarded to the 30 teams that participated. The Loara team received scholarships and gifts including:

For the Students:

Scholarships:

- Automotive Training Center Full Tuition Scholarship
- Lincoln Technical Institute Full Tuition Scholarship
- Universal Technical Institute Full Core Program Tuition Scholarship
- University of Northwestern Ohio Full Tuition Scholarship (not to exceed \$25,000)
- Ohio Technical College and the PowerSport Institute \$20,000 Scholarship
- New England Institute of Technology \$2,000 Scholarship

Gifts:

- Snap-on Gift Certificate for \$10,000 of Snap-on Tools compliments of General Motors Corporation, Snap-on Top & Bottom Tool Box, Snap-on Tool Bag, and Snap-on Ratcheting Screwdriver
- Official Competition Racing Shirt & Hat from GNYADA
- New York International Auto Show Bag from GNYADA
- Safety Glasses from CCAR SP2
- Gifts from Permatex, including the cost for one admission ticket to any one of the NHRA Races where Jay Blake and the Permatex/Follow-A-Dream Race Team plan on Racing in 2010
- Gifts from Monroe Shocks and Struts, Ingersoll Rand – Industrial Technologies, Ringers Gloves, Ford, Lexus, Mazda, Subaru, Toyota, NATEF, Lincoln Technical Institute, and Universal Technical Institute
- GNYADA National Competition First Place Gold Medallion

For the Instructor:

Hunter Engineering Company “Top of the Class” Training Award
Snap-on Ratcheting Screwdriver
Official Competition Racing Shirt & Hat from GNYADA
New York International Auto Show Bag from GNYADA
Gifts from Permatex, Monroe Shocks and Struts, Ingersoll Rand – Industrial Technologies, Ringers Gloves, Ford, Lexus, Mazda, Subaru, Toyota, NATEF, Lincoln Technical Institute, Universal Technical Institute
GNYADA National Competition First Place Gold Medallion

For the School:

Toyota Donation Vehicle for their Automotive Department compliments of Toyota Motor Sales, USA, Inc.
Lee Hunter Memorial Award compliments of Hunter Engineering company
Megatech Corporation’s NEWEST Electricity, Magnetism, and Materials Solution Trainer compliments of Megatech Corporation
From Cengage Learning – Chilton & Delmar – free ASE Prep and Chilton On-Line valued at \$1,000.

About the National Automotive Technology Competition

During the two-day competition, each team of students is assigned an automobile that is rigged to malfunction in a number of ways. Using a repair order with actual customer complaints, the student teams must diagnose and repair the problem within the allotted time, using the manufacturer’s specialty tools. Each “bug” correctly diagnosed and repaired is worth a number of points, depending on the level of difficulty.

In addition, the students’ knowledge of emissions control systems, alignment, electrical test equipment, airbag components, oscilloscope usage and mechanical measurement equipment is tested during a series of intensive work station sessions.

The National Automotive Technology Competition was founded by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, held at the New York International Auto Show. It is an industry-wide school-to-work initiative supported by nearly every major automaker, technical institutions, OEM suppliers, automotive parts and supplies companies, individual dealers, and dealers associations across the country. For more information, visit www.nationalautotech.com.

About North Orange County ROP

The North Orange County Regional Occupational Program operates many career technical training programs in North Orange County high schools. It is a joint powers effort to provide top quality career education to the students in the Anaheim Union, Fullerton Joint Union and Brea Olinda, Los Alamitos and Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School Districts. For more information, visit www.nocrop.us.

About the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association

Established in 1938, the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association serves the more than 121 franchised new vehicle dealers in Orange County. The association represents the interests of member dealers and provides them with information, services, political representation and other programs that enhance their collective businesses. For more information, please contact OCADA at 949-428-5050 or visit www.ocada.org.