

## **\* MEDIA ALERT \***

### **OC'S BRIGHTEST HIGH SCHOOL AUTOMOTIVE MINDS COMPETE AT ANNUAL AUTO TECH COMPETITION JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**No Longer a Wrench and Socket Career, Students Must Understand Complex Technological Systems**

**Will a Southern California Team Win the Nationals Again?**

- WHAT:** The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Automotive Technology presented by the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association (OCADA) assembles the most accomplished talent from Orange County high school automotive technology programs. This year, 12 students from six high schools will compete for college scholarships and to be known as the “best-of-the-best” locally and nationally. More than \$1.1 million in scholarships have been awarded to winners since 1994. Last year’s winners from Loara High School in Anaheim progressed to a national competition in New York and brought home top honors as the best high school auto technicians in the country.
- WHEN:** Saturday, January 22, 2011, 10 am to noon
- WHERE:** Hyundai Motor America headquarters in Fountain Valley (of the I-405 at Euclid)
- HOW:** Last October, 77 seniors from 14 Orange County high schools took a 100-question written exam, with the six highest-scoring, two-person teams advancing to the hands-on competition. To train and prepare for the competition, the teams train with a master technician from a local new car dealership. During the competition, each team is allotted 60 minutes on workstations and 60 minutes to detect and repair vehicle “bugs,” with each correctly restored malfunction earning points. The winning team will be sponsored by OCADA to compete in the National Automotive Technology Competition held at the New York International Auto Show in New York City in April.
- WHO:** This year’s teams come from San Clemente High School, Sunny Hills High School (Fullerton), Mission Viejo High School, Sonora High School (La Habra), Loara High School (Anaheim), and University High School (Irvine).
- WHY:** The goal of the OCADA Automotive Technology Competition is to recognize these students’ technical expertise and to introduce them to possibilities available with a career in automotive technology. OCADA also hopes to increase the development of first-rate automotive school-to-career programs in Orange County and to boost interest in a field with excellent job security and economic opportunities. Automotive technicians can make upwards of \$100,000 annually and is a field high in demand. The U.S. Department of Labor says job opportunities in this occupation are “very good” for people who have a strong technical background and training. 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.

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