

For Immediate Release

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**STUDENT TEAM FROM LOARA HIGH SCHOOL ROP IN ANAHEIM
WINS \$120,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AT NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE
TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION**
Team takes Second Place in Nation

ANAHEIM, Calif. (April 23, 2012) – The student team of Steven Brown and Erick Parades from Loara High School in Anaheim, Calif., took second place among 30 teams from around the country at the 2012 National Automotive Technology Competition held April 10-11 during the New York International Auto Show. The Loara ROP team, sponsored by the Orange County 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, John Kasabian. The team received substantial support from Mercedes-Benz of Anaheim and its service director, Mike Dehdashti, who invested many hours to prepare the winning team for the national competition by providing on-site training and support for two months leading up to the national competition. The team also had previously received training and support from Toyota of Orange when it competed at the Orange County competition, sponsored by OCADA, in February.

The second place win afforded the students a choice of scholarships at several top technical training schools including: a \$10,000 Lincoln Technical Institute Full Tuition Scholarship; a \$20,000 Automotive Training Center Scholarship; a \$17,500 Ohio Technical College Scholarship; and, a \$12,500 Universal Technical Institute Scholarship.

During the past 19 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.

“We are so very proud to sponsor these inspiring young men and wish them continued success as they continue to pursue a career in this exciting field,” said John Sackrison, executive director, Orange County Automobile Dealers Association. “Loara High School and Mercedes-Benz of Anaheim worked exceptionally hard and trained tirelessly to compete and place second among the top young automotive technology minds in the country.”

The U.S. Department of Labor says job opportunities in this occupation are “good” and the industry is expected to add 3,590 jobs annually through 2018. 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.

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” that is 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 workstation sessions.

The National Automotive Technology Competition was founded by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, and is held annually during 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 Orange County Automobile Dealers Association

Established in 1938, the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association serves the 119 franchised new vehicle dealers in Orange County. The association represents the interests of member dealers to enhance their collective businesses. For more information, please contact OCADA at 949-428-5050 or visit www.ocada.org.

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