

North Farmington Autos Program Receives Donated Vehicles

...As Well as Recent Success in Competitions and Educational Resources

The North Farmington Automotive Program has recently been revitalized. The program recently passed the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation [N.A.T. E.F.] facility assessment. This recertification will provide the program with more funding than ever and will allow for the necessary purchase of tools and new technology essential to today's automotive technicians.



Last year, through the Automotive Service Excellence [A.S.E] program, Bob Saks GMC and Sellers Buick GMC dealerships donated to the North Farmington Autos Program a 2002 Saturn Vue and a 2009 Pontiac Vibe. A.S.E provides vehicle donations to automotive facilities, such as North's, through a network of sponsoring dealerships. North has been especially blessed in the past few years to receive multiple vehicles to serve as laboratory cars for student training.

GM assists educational institutions within the GM Training Network. This network incorporates advanced automotive technical



training with a strong academic foundation of math, reading, and electronics, to strengthen students' analytical and technical skills. Students earn an Associates Degree while working and learning on the job, resulting in a solid education combined with invaluable work experience. Since 1979, GM's commitment to identify and support high school, college and university programs has produced over 15,000 service technicians.

Bob Saks GM dealership and Sellers Buick GMC dealership have provided North's students with work opportunities and donations in the past. North currently has students working in the automotive field, including Michael Lee, Andrew Nader, Nick Giovanni, and Davis Trapp. These students apply skills learned in the classroom and the automotive laboratory at North and learn additional skills at their places of employment.

Furthermore, North's students recently competed in two competitions including Tech Trek at the North American International Auto Show [N.A.I.A.S] and Skills U.S.A at Washtenaw Community College. Both of these competitions allowed students the opportunity to showcase their skills and knowledge, while competing against their peers.

North was among a select group of schools invited to the N.A.I.A.S, which was sponsored by Snap-On, a major automotive tools manufacturer. Tech Trek took place during the industrial preview of N.A.I.A.S. and consisted of an in depth scavenger hunt, on the show floor, for vehicle specifications. One of North's teams, David Belt and Davis Trapp, took second place in the student challenge and North's instructor,

David Verbeke, took third in the instructor challenge.

More recently, at the Skills U.S.A. Competition, students competed by applying automotive skills in five categories: new car prep, brakes, electrical, master technician, and overall (combination of the categories). The competition consists of a written test and a timed practical segment. North's students excelled at this competition including A.J. Kraus who placed first in electrical, Domenic Accettura who placed second in brakes and David Belt placed 4th in Master Tech. These students will move onto the State competition, in Lansing, Michigan, this spring.