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Issue CIII



Wheels & Wings

SoT Coordinator Inducted into Skills Hall of Fame



Dave Samalea, Professor/Coordinator of the Automotive and Motorcycle programs in the School of Transportation, is pictured receiving congratulations from the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Hon. John Milloy on his induction into the Klaus Woerner Hall of Fame, Skills Canada – Ontario. Dave was one of nine recipients this year, all of whom were recognized for significant contributions to the advancement of skilled trades and technologies in Ontario.

Dave has toiled relentlessly to ensure both college and high-school students gain the necessary education to excel in competition and in their future trade. He has been a regular volunteer in the Skills Canada – Ontario contests in Kitchener every year, and remains a sterling ambassador for the automotive trades.

Dave has led a team of SoT faculty and students to put together the Toronto Automotive Dealers Association Skills Competition at the Canadian International AutoShow for the past 11 years, with the goal of fostering interest in the motive-power skilled trades by a new generation. Dave will be accompanying the Canadian student contingent to New York City next month to take on the Americans in a similar competition there.

Dave possesses 20 years of rich teaching experience complemented by 15 years of automotive trade experience garnered at a major GM dealership and several aftermarket service outlets. He has extensive experience in developing and initiating technical skills

Newest Skills Canada Hall of Famer continued



Above: Centennial's contingent at the Skills Canada fundraiser in Kitchener

programs, as well as assessing college curriculum. Dave is a founding member of the CITI Motive Power Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program Steering Committee.

Dave, along with the other eight honourees, was inducted at the Skills Canada – Ontario "Building Futures, One Dream at a Time" fundraising gala on Friday, March 5 at Bingeman's in Kitchener. Congratulations Dave for this wonderful award and for your outstanding contributions to the skilled-trades training championed both here at Centennial and outside in our community!

Teaching our Students about Pride in the Auto Body Program

We have such a strong focus on the technical skills that are taught in our programs but teaching someone to truly care about the work they do has a profound impact. The pride that a person takes in a job well done not only benefits them but also the countless customers that are served over the course of their career, and the apprentices that they in turn mentor. Paul Santos, a Professor in our Auto Body Program, has kindly shared the following correspondence from a former student. It has been edited slightly to protect privacy but I think you'll agree that it tells much about the importance of what we do. You are right, Paul when you say that "its letters like this that makes it all worth while!"

Hi sir, i took your night course for auto body and gave you those airbags - you remember me right? Anyways i just wanted to tell you something, i feel like i have won the lottery. We had a 2000 Acura 3.2 TL come in last week - a rear end damage insurance job. Anyways, i was watching the tech (who isn't licensed but thinks he's the greatest bodyman in the world) install the bracket that holds the bumper. Not the ones on the side but the one under the trunk lid. I noticed he was just tack welding it on and i told him he should drill out the spot welds and plug weld them back where it was originally positioned. The bracket was a bit bent but not damaged beyond repair so we're talking about the same original bracket. He told me that i cannot tell him anything about body work and proceeded to just simply put a few tack welds on the bottom of the bracket.

Anyways, long story short the bumper spacing between the taillight was a bit too much on both sides and the customer was not happy with it. The bodyman pulled out the "It was a aftermarket part" excuse and that's as good as the spacing was gonna get. The customer refused to take the car and the bodyman tried to make some adjustments but couldn't fix it so he refused to do anything else. I told my boss i will fix it myself for free, so i went to the shop on Sunday just to gain the practice. i cut off the tack welds, drilled through the pinch welds and plug welded the bracket about a half inch higher than he had it welded. I tack welded it and put the bumper back on and it fit PERFECTLY. So i took the bumper off and plug welded all the holes. I drilled and re-installed the bumper. The spacing was perfect.

Anyways, i told my boss i was coming in to work late today because i have a dentist appt. I just got into work and the Acura was gone and my boss asked me what i did to fix it. I explained to him - he had a big smile told me to continue learning and that i will make a great bodyman one day. He also handed me an envelope with \$300 in it. Sir i have never had this feeling before but right now i am happier than a person who just won the lottery! Sorry i had to share it with you but I'm so proud of myself i just had to tell someone! Thank you sir for showing me the importance of taking pride in my work and in doing the job the way it is supposed to based on the manufacturer recommendations.

View the SoT video (2 minutes) by clicking [here](#)