

## University of Calgary Student Team Celebrated for Innovative Automotive Research

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 28, 2009**

Hamilton, ON: A team of student researchers from the University of Calgary was nationally recognized today for their innovative automotive research. The team was awarded first place in the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People (HQP) Poster Competition, which is open to student researchers within the AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence program. AUTO21 is Canada's national automotive research program, supporting more than 200 researchers and over 500 graduate students at 45 universities across the country.

More than 80 student teams from 28 Canadian universities took part in the competition, which was held in affiliation with the APMA-AUTO21 2009 Conference and Exhibition in Hamilton, Ontario. Supported by AUTO21 funding as they complete graduate and post-graduate degrees, each student's research contributes to one of AUTO21's 52 automotive research projects. The winning University of Calgary team contributes to the Teen and Novice Driver project, which is led by Professor Jeff Caird of the University of Calgary. Team members include: Amanda Ohlhauser, Andrew Mayer, Shaunna Milloy, Aimee Pearson, and Sebastian Siwec.

"The superior research poster developed by the University of Calgary students illustrates how this project's research will help the Canadian automotive sector develop new technologies and knowledge. This work also helps the students enhance their skills through hands-on R&D training," said Dr. Peter Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "AUTO21 projects focus on innovation, helping Canada maintain its competitiveness in automotive R&D."

The annual HQP Poster Competition is held each spring and boasts a total prize purse of nearly \$20,000. Twenty semi-finalist teams are selected from the initial pool of entrants, with each team member receiving a \$50 voucher for a bookstore. The semi-finalists provide an oral defence of their research poster, and five finalists are selected upon this evaluation. The finalists receive a cash prize to be divided amongst the team members. Judges are external to AUTO21 and include senior industry, government and R&D experts.

Final ranking of the top five student teams:

<b>Project name</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Ranking/prize</b>
Teen and Novice Driver Network	University of Calgary	First/\$4,500.00
Dynamic Collaborative Driving	University of Waterloo	Second/\$3,500.00
High Performance Powder-Metallurgy Auto Components	Universite Laval	Third/\$2,500.00
Neuro-Fuzzy Systems for Inspection in Manufacturing Processes	Queen's University	Fourth/\$1,500.00
Fine-Celled Foam Structures for TPO Components	University of Toronto	Honourable Mention/\$1,000.00

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The AUTO21 Network of Centres of Excellence currently supports 52 auto-related research projects with an annual \$11 million budget of public and private sector funding. Research occurs in six key areas: health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. AUTO21 is part of the federal Network of Centres of Excellence program, and its administrative centre is hosted by the University of Windsor.

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