



## Department of Automotive Technology News

2019 Spring/Summer Edition

Pittsburg State University

# PSU Celebrates Case New Holland (CNH) Donations Made to the Diesel/Heavy Equipment Program

## Grads give back to Automotive Tech program in big way

Three of the first students to attend classes in the Kansas Technology Center had such a transformative experience, they reciprocated — and in a big way.

As graduates, Dallas Grothusen ('00), Kelly Burgess ('01), and Ted Polzer ('02), went on to become leaders with CNH Industrial. On Wednesday, they returned to campus to help the Department of Automotive Technology officially unveil nearly \$300,000 worth of heavy equipment donated by the three.

PSU President Steve Scott described the donation as an investment.

"They benefited from the investment other people have made, and now full circle they're coming back to help that next generation," Scott said. "It's not just a donation, it's an investment in our students, in Pittsburg State University, and in CNH — the better our graduates are, the better your business is going to be."



Tim Dell, professor in Automotive Technology, said that 20 years ago when the Diesel and Heavy Equipment program was in its infancy, there were engines that students could disassemble and run, but there wasn't a single machine.

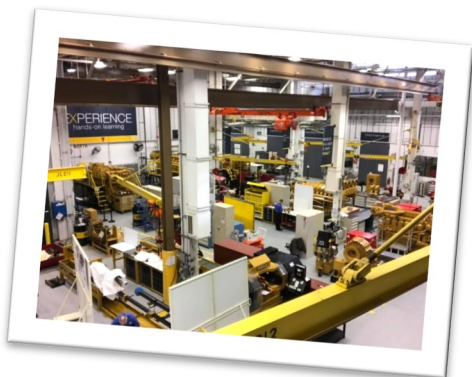


Wednesday's gift included a Case 521 F Wheel Loader valued at \$100,000, a Case CX17C mini excavator worth \$26,000, a New Holland C232 rubber track loader valued at \$40,000, a New Holland M428 Telehandler worth \$40,000, a Case IH 75C utility tractor worth \$30,000, a New Holland LV80 loader scraper valued at \$18,500, a New Holland TC33 compact utility tractor worth \$14,000, and a 586E forklift valued at \$13,500.

"We really can't teach a lot of this stuff if we're sitting in the class room. These machines and this equipment are used in our lab settings, outside and indoors, so that students have those hands on opportunities to learn," said John Thompson, chair of the Automotive Technology Program.

The Department of Automotive Technology truly values and appreciates the partnerships forged with outstanding corporate friends such as Case New Holland! *Thank you!!!!*

# Caterpillar Hosts PSU Representatives



Spring Break this year was a great opportunity for PSU folks to reconnect with our partners at Caterpillar. Dr. Tim Dawsey, Dean of the College of Technology, along with Dr. John Thompson, Automotive Chairman, Katie George, Director of Development, Heather Busch, Career Service Rep, and Professor Bob Schroer traveled to Peoria, IL for a three day tour of Caterpillar facilities and meetings with top brass. Special thanks to Andy Henry for coordinating the trip!

The group also enjoyed a Great Gorilla Gathering in Peoria with 23 Automotive Alumni. Caterpillar currently employs over 75 Gorillas!!!



## Follow the Automotive Department on Social Media



Pittsburg State University Automotive has now entered the social media era. We now have a Facebook page, Snapchat account, Instagram and in the works YouTube channel. The social media outlets will be used to help keep the public and alumni informed of what is happening in the department. The other idea is to help in recruiting new students to the program. You can find them by searching

@psuautotech





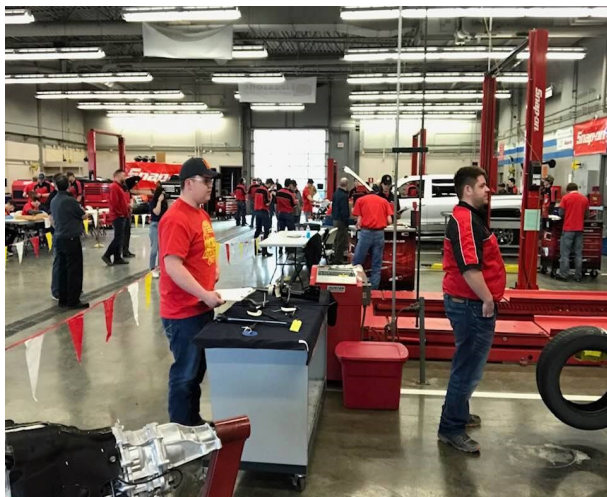
## Ford Motor Company Makes Vehicle Donation

Automotive Technology alumni Chris Wilde, Technical Operations Manager from the Ford Customer Service Division of the Technical Assistance Center, traveled from Detroit to PSU to hand over the keys to a new donated 2014 Ford Focus SE. This vehicle will be used in the Automotive Technology lab classes and allows students to gain real hands-on experience with late model automotive advancements. The PSU Department of Automotive Technology could not be successful without donations like this from automotive manufactures. Thank you Chris and Ford Motor Company for investing in the success of our automotive program, our students, and our future leaders of the automotive industry.



## Pitt State Hosts 5th Annual Regional State Skills Competition

The PSU Automotive Department once again held their annual Regional Automotive contest on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This yearly event provides opportunities for area high school students to practice their automotive skills prior to entering their respective state Skills-USA Automotive contests. This also provides an opportunity for



these students to tour our Automotive Department and learn about the opportunities here at PSU. Twenty-four contestants participated from seven area schools. Prizes and scholarships were awarded to the top three place winners including a \$1000 scholarship for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

# BAJA Competes at National Competition in Cookeville, Tennessee

The PSU Baja team competed in April in Cookeville, TN. This year's competition vehicle was finished just days before heading to the event. Students from the Automotive Technology program worked hand in hand with Engineering Technology students to complete the vehicle.

Chauncey Pennington, the lead faculty advisor for the team, said "We are super proud of the students and the work they did this year meeting or beating some of their goals, even if they didn't all work out as planned". He reminds us that the learning comes from the journey, not the finish. Some of the engineering advancements to this year's vehicle are:

- Shaved over 100lbs off the car from last year
- Custom metal cast front spindles to try and improve the turning radius
- Built a new transmission to improve the overall gear ratio and acceleration

The team placed 52<sup>nd</sup> overall of 100 teams, with highlights of 45<sup>th</sup> in the Endurance race and 20<sup>th</sup> in the Sled Pull.



The students every year are required to raise the funds in order to build and race the car. This adds a considerable amount of stress to the project with students needing to raise approximately \$1200 each. How can you help? Different levels of sponsorship are available. Please visit <https://www.pittstate.edu/automotive/baja-team.html> or contact Chauncey Pennington at [cpennington@pittstate.edu](mailto:cpennington@pittstate.edu) to find out different ways you or your company can donate to continue to make this organization successful.

Also make sure to check out <https://www.facebook.com/pittstatebaja/> for up to date news.



## Congratulations!!!!



### Dr. Trent Lindbloom and Dr. Bob Frisbee

Trent Lindbloom completed his doctoral degree in Adult and Life Long Learning from the University of Arkansas. The journey began in the spring of 2016 and he defended his dissertation on April 2, 2019. His research titled, "The Perceived Occupational Benefits of Competing in Technical Collegiate Competitions" studied the perceived benefits for students participating in the Baja competition. Congratulations Dr. Lindbloom for a job well done!!!



Congratulations to Dr. Bob Frisbee as the new Interim Dean of the College of Technology. Dr. Frisbee served the past two years as the Associate Dean of the college and will assume his new role beginning June 16, 2019. Congratulations Dr. Frisbee!!!

## Automotive Scholarship and Awards Recipients

### Rewarding good behavior

That is the theme of every scholarship banquet or reception. The event is always about recognizing and rewarding the hard work and effort made by the top academic performers in the department. And this year was no exception! It was another wonderful year for students at the annual College of Technology Awards Reception. Students from the department received over \$30,000 in scholarships and awards this year alone. Many of the donors speak about the impact that PSU had on their lives and how they appreciate the opportunity to give back. They are reminded that these scholarships go to the top students and are transformational in changing the trajectory of a student's life.



On behalf of the Department of Automotive Technology and the PSU Office of Advancement, thank you to all our wonderful donors and best of luck to our students on their future success!

## Industrial Tours Class Visits Indianapolis Speedway, Ford Museum and Rouge Plant, and General Motors



This semester the Department of Automotive Technology embarked on an “Industrial Tour” trip encompassing approximately 2400 miles with stops in Indianapolis, IN, Detroit, and Dearborn, MI. The group consisted of 22 students and two instructors. The first stop was to the Indianapolis Speedway track and museum where students got to hear about the history of the Indianapolis 500 and kiss the bricks at the finish line which is tradition for all winners. The next stop was to Dearborn, MI to go through the Henry Ford museum and Greenfield Village. The next day they toured the Ford Rouge Plant and visited Ford Technical Assistance Center where they sat in on calls with tech advisors and met up with some Gorilla alumni. The next day the group went to the GM Milford Proving Grounds to see vehicles being tested, including the all new Corvette with disguise on it. The group also visited the GM Propulsion facility where they saw more Gorilla alums.

Many students commented that this was the “best trip” they had ever been on. As a department, we are working hard to bring these experiences to our students to enlighten them as to all the career opportunities they have.



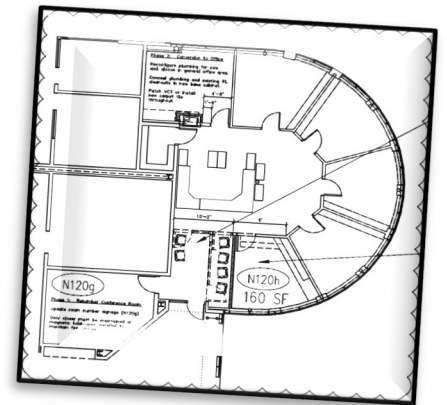
# Donation Opportunities YOU CAN Make a Difference!!!

The Department of Automotive Technology is seeking to expand and improve our facilities in the following three ways:

1.) **Outdoor Vehicle Delivery Lab**: Our “*Dealership and Corporate Transportation*” emphasis (previously “Service Management and Marketing”) is in need of a ***Vehicle Delivery Lab*** for the “Dealership Sales Operations” course. The lab would be located northeast of the department office. Cost estimates are about \$30,000.



2.) **Department office remodel**: As the department continues to position itself to be a School of Transportation, plans have been made and estimates given to reformat the main office to better allow space for guests, prospective students/parents, faculty offices, and copier/kitchen area. The remodel will provide an additional coordinator office. The cost estimate is \$10,500.



3.) **Display our history**: The automotive program can be dated back before 1915 and we’d like to display it! We hope to line our hallways with pictures of our great past, not only honor those who came before us, but to also show our guests our rich history of training automotive technicians and managers. We would like to display about 10-12 pictures but they cost about \$300 each to size and frame.



If you have any interest in supporting these or other initiatives, please contact Dr. John Thompson at 620-235-6516 or email him at [john.thompson@pittstate.edu](mailto:john.thompson@pittstate.edu).



# Pittsburg State University

## Automotive Alumni

### Pittsburg Golf Classic

**DATE:** Friday, September 20, 2019

**LOCATION:** Countryside Golf Course – 469 E 520<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pittsburg, KS 66762

**TIME:** Registration 7:30-9:00 am. Golf starts at 9:30 a.m. Players must check in 30 minutes prior to starting time at which time you will receive your starting hole assignment. Lunch will follow golf.

**REGISTER BY:** Monday, August 5, 2019.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$50.00 per player. Entry fee includes: green fee, golf cart, lunch after the tournament. Single players welcome. If you're not on a team, our committee will find a team for you.

**SPONSORS:** Hole Sponsors: \$100 Crimson, \$200 Gold includes logo and name on banner and hole sign.

Prize Sponsors - \$300

Golf Cart Sponsor - \$400

Lunch Sponsors - \$500

Breakfast Sponsor \$300

Beverage Sponsor - \$500

\*Tournament Sponsor - \$1,000

Above sponsors also receive an individual sign with sponsor's name located on a hole on the course during tournament along with special recognition on signage at registration & luncheon.

**\*Tournament Sponsor includes entry fees for (1) one team of 4**

**FORMAT:** Four person scramble. Prizes and flights dependent on number of entries.

**PRIZES:** Event participants receiving cash, or cash equivalent prizes (gift cards, or gift certificates), will be required to complete IRS Form W-9 at the event.

Event participants receiving merchandise prizes, gifts and/or awards in excess of \$150 will be required to complete IRS Form W-9 at the event.

**FOR INFORMATION:** Pittsburg State University, Automotive Technology Phone: 620.235.4973 for:

Trent Lindbloom 620-235-4198/e-mail: [tlindbloom@pittstate.edu](mailto:tlindbloom@pittstate.edu)

**REGISTRATION:** Registration and payment for this event can be completed online:

<https://bit.ly/2US4y0A>

# IN OTHER NEWS



CAM visits MOKAN Dragstrip

4th Annual CAM Inspection Day (29 cars and 17 students)

AMP Group visits Springfield Remanufacturing Facility and Bass Pro.

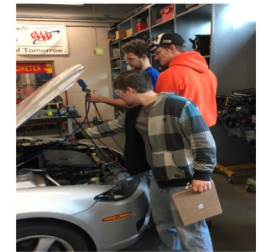
Automotive Faculty continue to staff and lead the Kansas Skills Contest

AT-641 Construction Equipment class along with Dr. Dell and Professor Pennington toured Foley Equipment in Topeka, KS.

Automotive Orientation Day

BAJA visits Corvette Museum

CAM Group visits Professor's shop



Spring/Summer 2019

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**We're on the web!**

**<http://www.pittstate.edu/autotech>**

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620 235-4973

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Mr. Steve Polley, Associate Professor / 620 235-6515 [spolley@pittstate.edu](mailto:spolley@pittstate.edu)

**Fax: 620 235-6190**



**Summer/Fall 2019  
Automotive Department Calendar**

**June 24-28 National Skills USA**

**July 27 Summer Sessions close**

**August 19 Classwork Begins  
August 21 Tool Show (8:00-11:00am)  
August 29 4:00pm Welcome Back BBQ**

**September 17-18 Company Days 2019  
September 19 Fall Advisory Council**

**October 10-11 Fall Break**

**November 27 Thanksgiving Break begins**

**December 9 Finals Begin  
December 13 Commencement**