

## TeamUSA Wins “Automotive Service” Silver Medal in World Skills Competition

Rusty Brown, a senior at Pittsburg State University (Kansas) won the silver medal at the World Skills Competition held last June in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Rusty was one of eight TeamUSA members who competed in this biennial competition. Ireland won the Gold Medal and Italy won the Bronze.

TeamUSA also won the bronze medal in welding. Twenty-two countries competed in the 2003 automotive competition. The contest was held June 19-22. Team USA arrived in Switzerland on June 15th and departed on June 26th.

Rusty’s silver medal also earned him the Gold Medal for his “Best in Nation” performance. This was a follow-up to TeamUSA winning the automotive silver medal in Seoul, Korea, in 2001. Second place in 2001 was the first medal ever won in world automotive service competition by the United States. The win in 2003 made the United States the first country to win consecutive medals in the automotive service competition.

In a recent interview Rusty stated: “The contest was four days long consisting of seven work stations which were each three and a half hours long. We completed two work stations a day with one on the final day.” The seven stations were:

- \* Toyota Yaris (engine performance)
- \* Mercedes C230 Kompressor (brakes)
- \* Toyota Yaris (engine performance)
- \* Ford IB5 Manual Trans (manual transmission)
- \* Hyundai Getz (steering, suspension, alignment)
- \* Opel Signum (engine mechanical)
- \* Peugeot 307SW (diesel engine performance)

Rusty stated that the World Skills Competition was by far the hardest contest in which he had ever participated. He acknowledged that was as it should have been since he was facing the world’s best.

Growing up as a young man in Texas, Rusty had a high interest in cars. He also knew he had a mechanical aptitude and was good with his hands. He capitalized on this as an automotive student by being a member of SkillsUSA-VICA at Lamar High School, in Paris, Texas. In 2000 he won the Texas competition and moved on to the national SkillsUSA-VICA Championships in Kansas City. He won the Gold Medal



*Rusty Brown, TeamUSA member and student at Pittsburg State University is shown with his “Silver Medal” on the awards stand in St. Gallen, Switzerland*

there! He complemented this honor with another national gold medal (2001), and a silver national medal (2002), in the post-secondary competition as a Toyota T-TEN student at Pittsburg State University in Kansas.

“My experience in Switzerland was great for the most part. We did run into some resistance from other countries, but that was expected.” (One of his teammates was a student from France.) Rusty added: “I enjoyed it very much, especially the pride I felt when all the other competitors referred to me as ‘The American’ at the contest site.”

Mentor/coach Ron Downing stated: “I was probably most surprised at the level of competition. These guys are the best in their country; they’re so talented for being so young (23 is the maximum age at the time of the contest). It’s amazing, really!”

Rusty earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Pittsburg State University in 2002. He and

his wife, Sarah (his high school sweetheart), are both presently working on bachelor degrees at the University. They are the proud parents of two little girls.

Rusty will graduate in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in Technology. Rusty's career goal is to get an automotive technical or service engineering position with a large automotive corporation when he graduates. He probably won't have any trouble in achieving this goal.

**Ken Gordon, Automotive Technology Coordinator,  
Pittsburg State University**

## **ATech's Invitational Workshops July 2003 - Belterra Riverboat**



**Troubleshooting Competition**



**First Place Winners Receive AutoTap as Prize**

Steve Rivera - Cambridge Rindge  
Rob Cooper - Cambridge Rindge  
Fred Hines - President, ATech Training Inc.



**Second Place Winners Receive AutoTap as Prize**

Bill Takayama - Rio Hondo  
Steve Tomory - Rio Hondo  
Fred Hines - President, ATech Training Inc.

## **August 2003 - Rio Hondo CC**



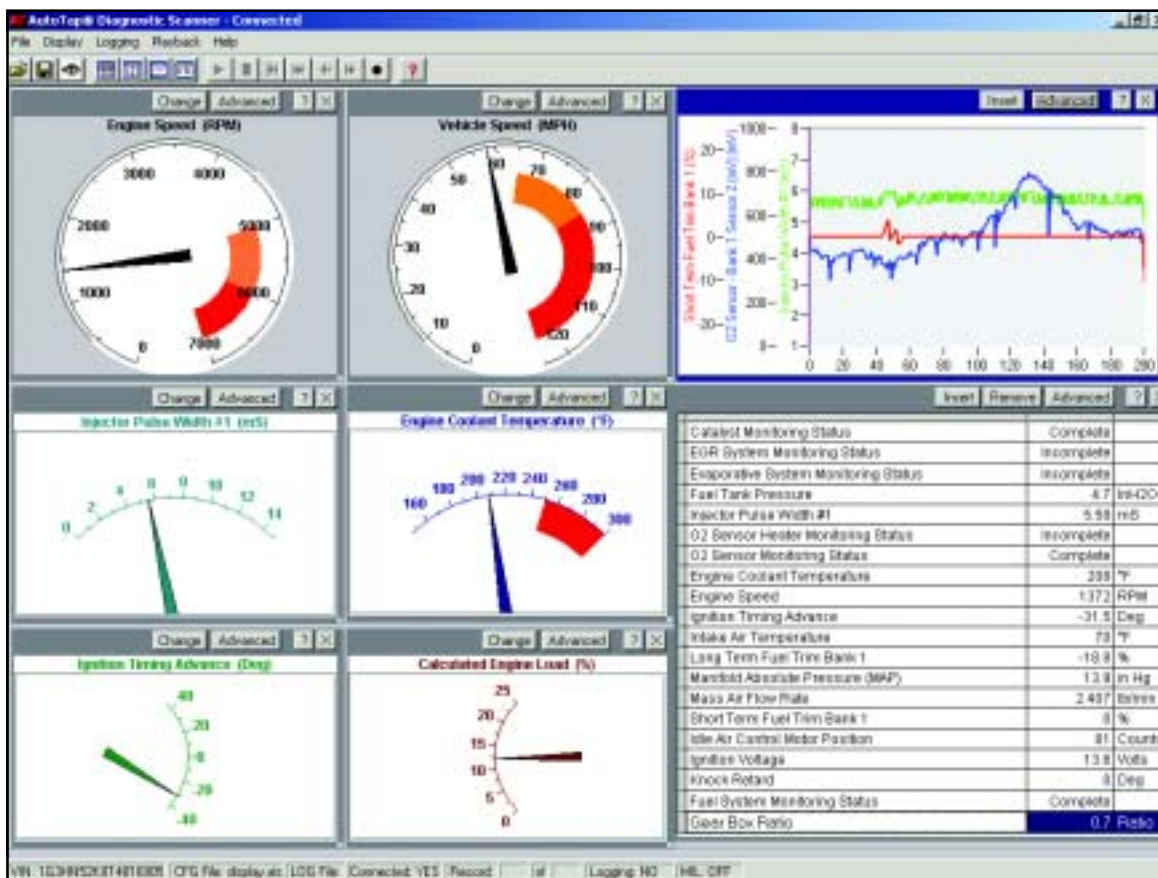
**GM Virtual S.E.T. Activities**



**Rio Hondo "Class"**

# “New” Expanded Program

## ATech, AIPC, AutoTap (A-A-A) Educator Scan Tool Program



**Multiple Data Display - Screen Laptop Computer**

Use your PC or Palm to quickly diagnose and fix problems on 1996 and newer OBD II equipped cars and light trucks.



- Read Diagnostic Trouble Codes
- Read Freeze Frame Data
- Clear the Check Engine Light
- View emissions readiness monitors
- View and log real-time sensor data, including manufacturers enhanced data for GM, Ford and Chrysler
- Graph signals to illustrate relationships for classroom presentation
- Allow students to “discover” operational characteristics of systems.

**The A-A-A Educator Program**

Schools in the United States and Canada can now purchase limited quantities of the AutoTap Scan Tool at the \$249.95 price for program use under the new expanded A-A-A educator purchase program.

ATech Training and the Automotive Industry Planning Council (AIPC) in collaboration with AutoTap are very excited about this opportunity for schools across the United States and Canada. In an effort to improve instruction of OBD II and, as a result, improve the skills of the graduating technicians, this enhanced data scanner for laptop computers or Palm™ PDA devices is being made available at a special greatly discounted price. How long will this offer last? At this point that is unknown so make your requests soon.

This is a 50% price reduction from list. A combination of the Laptop version and the PDA version can be purchased for \$349.95. Visit the ATech website for the required application and additional details: [www.atechtraining.com](http://www.atechtraining.com)



**Diagnostic Scanner**

# The Next Generation of GM S.E.T.

## GM S.E.T. Troubleshooting Trainer



**GM S.E.T. Troubleshooting Trainer 18002TT**

ATech designed the original General Motors Specialized Electronic Training (S.E.T.) hardware and is now introducing the next generation of S.E.T. hardware. The new Troubleshooting S.E.T. allows all of the Stage 1, 2, and 3 circuits to be constructed using the same reliable banana plug connection technology as the original trainer. All components are permanently mounted - no more lost modules or storage problems. A locking suitcase provides security and ease of storage. The trainer is light weight - 25 pounds, suitable for mobile labs or portable instruction.

The **S.E.T. Troubleshooting Trainer** was designed in response to the many requests from Education and Industry users. Both groups want to take the S.E.T. program to the natural next level; troubleshooting instruction. The Trainer includes a keypad and 2 line LCD display for student response and local fault insertion. Faults can be inserted by: selecting a number on the keypad, through a computer connected to the trainer, or by ATech's Instructor Management Program when the Trainer is connected to a standard network. Network connection requires the use of a network adapter available from ATech. The Instructor Management Program (IMP), through the ATech Network System (ANS), monitors/displays student logon to the

**ATech Model 18002TT. General Motors S.E.T. Troubleshooting Trainer for use with General Motors "Electrical/Electronics Stage 1, 2, and 3" course:**

- Includes components for all three stages and original "faulted" components.
- Local and Network Fault insertion
- Fault insertion selection by circuit number, ex.3-2
- Fault insertion selection by module
- Instructor can develop circuits and fault at component level
- Network display and storage of student's performance
- Compatible with ATech's Network System and Instructor Management Program

Trainers, allows creation and reuse of fault files, provides automated fault selection, and transmission of selected faults to each student. Student responses on the keypads to inserted faults is shown on the ANS monitor screen along with correct answers. Records of student responses can be stored in Instructor designated hard-disk directories.

Faults can be selected by two methods: Select the S.E.T experiment number and the circuit schematic will be shown on the computer with available faults or "Build Your Own Circuit". For this capability, the entire Trainer front panel with all components and faults is shown on the computer in a scrollable format. Select the components and faults you want, set hard/intermittent and save for future use.



## TeamUSA Mentor Wins Back-to-Back World Medals

Ron Downing, TeamUSA mentor in the 2003 World Skills Competition, has coached consecutive contestants to Silver Medal finishes in automotive service competition. It is believed to be the first time a country has earned two consecutive medals in the Automotive Service World Competition.

Professor Downing was first involved with the World Skills Competition when he was selected by SkillsUSA-VICA in 2001 to mentor the TeamUSA automotive service contestant for competition in Seoul, Korea. He and TeamUSA colleagues were in Seoul during the very difficult time of the 9-11 disaster.

Professor Downing and national SkillsUSA-VICA winner Josh Boschee trained together prior to the competition in September 2001. Josh had previously won the national competition while a student at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota. They traveled throughout the country receiving training support from numerous automotive companies in the U.S. In 2003, Downing repeated the arduous schedule, training the 2003 World Skills Competition contestant, Rusty Brown.

Ron Downing is currently an instructor in the AAS Automotive Service program at Pittsburg State University in southeast Kansas. During the past 30 years he has enjoyed mentoring an almost unbelievable number of state and national winners.

He started his automotive service training career at Lamar High School in southwest Missouri in 1972. Three years later (1975) he mentored his first student to a state title in SkillsUSA-VICA competition. From 1975 to 1996, his students won 20 state championships, and 9 national medals. In the fall of 1996, Downing accepted a teaching position at Pittsburg State University, just across the state border in southeast Kansas. At Pitt State Downing mentored students to 6 state championships, and 6 national medals in post-secondary competition: Three gold and Three silver. A summary of Downing's international automotive skill competition success includes:

**Brian Henegar—4th Place 1991**

Amsterdam, Holland  
 High School Mentor

**Kevin Heneger—5th Place, 1995**

Lyon, France  
 High School Mentor

**Tim Dearing—6th Place, 1999**

Montreal, Canada  
 College Mentor

**Joshua Boschee—Silver Medal, 2001**

Seoul, Korea

Team USA Mentor

**Rusty Brown-Silver Medal, 2003**

St. Gallen, Switzerland

College and TeamUSA Mentor

Mr. Downing has also mentored students to great success in Chrysler and Ford/AAA sponsored



*Rusty Brown, left, is shown with his silver medal at ceremonies in St. Gallen, Switzerland. At the right is his Mentor Ron Downing, holding the "Best in Nation" Award indicating Rusty's silver medal being the highest award by a TeamUSA member.*

competition. His students won 10 straight titles and 2 national championships in that competition.

In late 2002 Downing, and his colleagues at Pittsburg State, decided that the University would cease competing in the Kansas Skill Championship competition. Ron made the very difficult decision to devote his skill to working to maintain excellence in the state and national contests. In addition he agreed to mentor students in the World Skills Competition. He is looking forward to the 2005 competition in Helsinki, Finland.

Three world medals in a row would be great. Good luck Ron! U.S.A. Automotive Service Training professionals - industry, business, and education- are wishing you and your protégé well. Thanks for serving!

**Ken Gordon, Automotive Technology Coordinator  
 Pittsburg State University**

## SkillsUSA-VICA, A Showcase for Technical Education



**Front row L to R:** Technical committee member Susan Christophersen, ACDelco; Secondary Bronze-Mike Morin, Pittsburg High School (KS); Gold-Nicholas Moroder, Grafton High School (WI); and Silver-Chris Dorr, LeMars Community High School (IA); and, technical committee member Peter Riccardo, DaimlerChrysler.

**Back row L to R:** Technical committee member George Arrants, Snap-on, Inc.; Postsecondary Bronze-Code Blanchard, MSU-Northern (MT); Gold-Brandon Meyer, Bismarck State College (ND); Silver-Mike Cole, Saint Cloud Technical College (MN); technical committee members—Mike Collins, DaimlerChrysler; and, Scott Ellern, Carquest Corp. (photo from SkillsUSA)

Imagine a gathering of more than 12,500 people, including students, teachers, and industry representatives, from all over the United States, with the sole purpose of promoting career and technical education. That's exactly what took place during the last week of June in Kansas City, Mo. The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual SkillsUSA-VICA National Leadership and Skills Conference brought together students, educators, and industry to showcase the occupational (vocational) skills of the youth of America.

The conference is a week long event that includes a variety of activities. First, there is the Techspo and Career Fair, one of the largest of its kind, which offers technical educators and industry an opportunity to connect with over 4,000 students and their advisors. Second, there is the Skills University, which takes place throughout the week and offers a variety of professional development activities and seminars focusing on leadership, communications, teamwork, and new technologies. The highlight of the conference, however, is the SkillsUSA Championships. The Championships consist of hands-on competitions in 75 different areas. Secondary and post secondary students, all state contest winners, take part in this challenging event, vying for valuable prizes and scholarships, as well as, the national championship title and a gold

medal.

Students competing in Automotive Service Technology (AST) are no exception. In fact, this is one of the largest contests held during this conference. There are over 90 students competing in an intense eight-hour competition. The AST contest challenges the students in a wide range of subjects, including: driveability and engine performance; electrical diagnosis and wire repair; automatic and manual transmission; brakes; steering and suspension; heating and air conditioning; engine mechanical; environmental, health and safety; as well as job interview skills. And it's not just technical knowledge that's important. The automotive contest requires students to demonstrate professionalism, and the ability to use critical thinking. The students who do well in this contest are not only the ones who know the vehicle systems, are familiar with using the tools and procedures, but also are able to think through the problems and recognize what is needed to get the best results.

It takes a great deal of industry support and hundreds of volunteers to put on this competition. There are many dedicated people who take time each year, not only at the national level, but also at the state and regional level. Those who get involved agree that it is a very rewarding experience. One of the true benefits of

## **AIPC 2003 Awards Program Winners**

### **Secondary Programs:**

#### **National Winner**

[Central Nine Career Center](#)

Automotive Service Technology

Nick Banos, Director

Greenwood, IN

#### **Runners Up**

[East Valley Institute of Technology](#)

Automotive Technology

Linda Tani,

Grants/Continuing Education Director

Mesa, AZ

[Technical High School of Carroll County](#)

Automotive Service Technology

Sonny Reeves, Instructor

Carrollton, GA

### **Post-Secondary Programs - Generic:**

#### **National Winner**

[Skagit Valley College](#)

Automotive Technology

R. Scott Hall, Dept Chair/ Instructor

Mount Vernon, WA

#### **Runners Up**

[Elizabethtown Technical College](#)

Diesel Technology

Jerry Clemons, Auto/Diesel Instructor

Elizabethtown, KY

[Delaware Technical and Community College](#)

Automotive Technology

Sam Brittingham, Dept. Chair

Georgetown, DE

### **Post-Secondary Programs - Manufacturer-Affiliated:**

#### **National Winner**

[Ranken Technical College](#)

General Motors ASEP Automotive Maintenance

Technology Program

John Wood, Automotive Instructor

ST. Louis, MO

**AIPC 2004 Awards of Excellence Documents available on [www.autoipc.org](http://www.autoipc.org).  
Start Early and Win**

being involved in this activity is knowing that what we do helps drive changes in the automotive education arena. As vehicle technology changes, so must automotive curriculum in our schools. If the AST contest challenges students to demonstrate skills and knowledge that represents the skills and knowledge required to work as a technician, the schools that participate pay attention.

The contest is designed to raise the bar in our educational system, but it is also designed to find the best of the best. One of the benefits for students finishing at the top is having a chance to represent the United States in an international competition. World Skills Competition is held every two years in different countries around the world and the automotive contestant is selected from the top winners of the SkillsUSA championships. Competitors from over 20 countries test their skills on all sorts of makes and models of vehicles. The World Skills Competition is truly a 'world class' contest and the USA has recently been well represented. Our competitors have won the Silver Medal in the last two events; in Korea in 2000 and in Switzerland in 2002. This is a great accomplishment and demonstrates the high caliber of students coming out of automotive education programs today.

[Susan Christophersen](#)  
**Manager of Service Training**  
ACDelco

## **The Troubleshooter Program**

The AIPC/ATech Troubleshooter Training Program has been very successful. The program has had many downloads and instructors are using it in many innovative ways. Both regular classes and evening technician upgrade classes have found it effective. The program has been used as a pretest for transfer students, a post test for students finishing the electrical area, and as a self evaluation for practicing technicians. If you think your electrical/electronics training section is doing the job, let your students try to identify the faults in these circuits.

Some instructors have asked for additional support materials, for example - student activity sheets. If instructors would like to develop those or other support materials and wish to share them with all instructors, send them to [fhines@autoipc.org](mailto:fhines@autoipc.org). They will be placed on the AIPC website for everyone to download.



ATech Training Inc.  
 12290 Chandler Drive  
 P.O. Box 297  
 Walton, Ky 41094  
 (859) 485-7229  
 www.atechtraining.com  
 sales@atechtraining.com

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## And actively supports:



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