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Safety Awards Honour Innovative Student Engineering Designs

Promoter of workplace health and safety instills mindset via post-secondary classrooms

TORONTO, ON – Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc. congratulates the winners of its 2016 James Ham Safe Design Award Competition. The annual award challenges Canadian university engineering students and college students in technology programs to make an original contribution toward integrating safety into engineering design.

The team of Ryan Schmidt, Tanner Thomsen, Marlee Wasnik, engineering undergraduate students at the University of Regina, clinched the top prize for designing an innovative, portable and cost effective fall restraint system to reduce and potentially prevent injuries and fatalities when working on trailer flat bed trucks. The team of Jeremy Wang, Ryan Williams, Shuyi Wu, Noah Yang, engineering undergraduate students at the University of Toronto, took second prize for designing an attachment for mop wringers (the PowerWring) that can assist in preventing lower back and repetitive strain injuries in the janitorial industry.

The winning team will be awarded the first prize of \$3,500 while the runner-up winner will receive \$1,500. Larry Masotti, Minerva Board member and Director at Workplace Safety & Prevention Services and Minerva Canada President and CEO Tony Pasteris will present the awards at the WSPS Partners in Prevention Conference in Mississauga, Ontario on April 27.

Another university team deserved an honorable mention during Minerva's review of the submissions for this award. The University of Waterloo engineering team of Dena Arghastani, Mahdi Mahdi, Brant Wunderlich, Peter VanderMeer, conducted a very thorough hazard analysis and dispersion modeling in arriving at a design solution to mitigate and reduce the potential risk of an ammonia release from a chemical processing facility in Canada. "Our Minerva awards committee members were very impressed with the thoroughness of all three university submissions and congratulate all these students. They will clearly be among our future champions of health and safety in the workforce," says Pasteris.

The award honours James Milton Ham whose Royal Commission Report on Health and Safety led to the creation of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1979 and to the adoption of the Internal Responsibility System in Ontario workplaces. James Ham trained as an engineer with a secondary field of study in sociology; his writings emphasized 'society and human needs'. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980 and died in 1997.

Minerva Canada's James Ham Safe Design Awards:

- Encourage students and engineering, college faculty members to integrate safety into all designs.
- Produce safer designs of devices, processes and systems.
- Raise awareness of Process Safety Management (PSM) and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) in engineering schools and colleges.

Through the Minerva Awards program, students in Canadian engineering schools and colleges are being challenged to:

- Suggest ways to improve the existing design of devices, processes or systems.
- Envision new, innovative designs that will eliminate or reduce potential hazards.
- Create tools to help manufacturers and workplaces integrate safety into new or retrofit designs.

Students interested in entering the 2017 competition should visit www.safetymanagementeducation.com for more information.

About Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc.:

Minerva Canada, a non-profit volunteer-run organization, aims to be a global leader in health and safety management education by influencing the curriculum of post-secondary institutions to ensure that future business leaders create healthier and safer workplaces. The only organization of its kind, it advocates for increased inclusion of health and safety concepts in curricula; educates the educators by providing business and engineering professors and instructors in universities and colleges with practical, curriculum-ready tools and initiatives; forges partnerships with governments, associations and accreditation boards; and connects educators with Canada's business enterprises to learn what industry seeks from new graduates entering the workforce and how health and safety management concepts are being applied in the workplace.

All resources and activities are provided free of charge to educators, financially supported by our roster of blue chip corporate, organizational and government sponsors. Key sponsors include the Ontario Ministry of Labour, WorkSafeBC, the Ontario Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, DuPont Canada, Nova Chemicals, Bruce Power, Shell Canada, Erco Worldwide, CF Industries, BASF, Chemtrade Logistics, H.L. Blachford, Canada Post, Trimac, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Mitacs, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and Mirarco.

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