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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 2020 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 Wendy Ampadu, Ray Diezmos, Jeremy Hyslob, Hassan Malik, engineering undergraduate students from Ryerson University clinched First Prize in the 2020 Minerva Canada James Ham Safe Design Engineering Student Awards contest for incorporating new safety design features at asphalt loading facilities owned and operated by a large Canadian asphalt company. The team's design project addressed overfilling, loading arm and loading rack issues that included new technology, all of which would significantly enhance the safety of drivers loading hot asphalt. The team's design submission was accepted for publication in an international Mechanical Engineering journal along with an invitation for the student team to present their project at 5 international conferences.

The team of Qi Zou, Xueling Luo and Shuo Zhang from York University's Lassonde School of Engineering took second prize in the Minerva Canada 2020 competition. They designed a novel shock absorber that can be attached between a power tractor and impact rollers used to compress soil for new construction sites, roads etc. The shock absorber significantly reduces the vibration experienced by operators of this equipment, thereby reducing the potential for serious injuries.

The winning team will be awarded the first prize of \$2,000 while the runner-up team will receive \$500. . These Minerva awards are normally presented at the WSPS Partners in Prevention Conference in Mississauga, Ontario and cancelled this Spring due to the pandemic. The students will be recognized at a November 3rd. virtual meeting of Minerva's Board of Directors as well as during Minerva's webinar on Covid19 being held on November 5th.

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 create or 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.

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 past Minerva sponsors include the Ontario Ministry of Labour, WorkSafeBC, the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, the Ontario Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Mirarco, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, DuPont Canada, Nova Chemicals, Bruce Power, Erco Worldwide, Glencore, CF Industries, Canada Post, Methanex, Chemtrade Logistics, H.L.Blachford, Trimac, Mitacs, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers, Rio Tinto

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