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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 2017 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 Andrew Kostruba, Katie Dritsas, Kayla Musalem and Kenny Wei, engineering undergraduate students at the University of Toronto, clinched the top prize for designing and creating a document that small businesses can use in developing a process safety management system that complies with CSA Z767. They presented their project at the 2017 Chemical Industry Association of Canada conference and which was very well received by industry attendees. The team of Derek Grain, Zachary Hass and Michael Taylor, engineering undergraduate students at the University of Regina, took second prize for designing a rapid attachment interchange system for forklifts that can reduce workplace injuries when changing forklift attachments. Their industry client very well accepted their project and design.

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 May 3rd.

Two other university teams deserved an honorable mention during Minerva's review of the submissions for this award. The University of Waterloo engineering team of O. Atumonyogo, N.J.Rong, S.M. Murtaza and R.Khalid proposed design changes and recommendations to reduce the potential risk of explosion from high hydrogen concentrations in a urea production facility. The McMaster University engineering team of C.Crump, K.El-Ghwanmeh, T.Leung, J.Secker, and H.Temple designed a GPS device and system to improve the communication between workers and crane operators in order to reduce the potential for workplace injuries during lifting operations.

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.

Students interested in entering the 2018 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, Nova Scotia Department of Labour Advanced Education, the Ontario Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, DuPont Canada, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Nova Chemicals, Bruce Power, Erco Worldwide, CF Industries, BASF, Chemtrade Logistics, H.L.Blachford, Canada Post, Nexen, Glencore, Trimac, Mitacs, Ontario Society of Professional Engineers and Mirarco.

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