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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 winner of its 2019 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 student team from McMaster University has won First Prize in the 2019 Minerva Canada James Ham Safe Design Engineering Student Awards contest for their design of BarLok Pliers by incorporating occupational health and safety into their product's design. Congratulations to Alexander Barros, Adnan Lokhandwala, Ali Maqbool, Kevin Najdienow and Dylan Porco of McMaster's Mechanical Engineering and Management program.

The BarLok Pliers aim to assist ironworkers in the repetitive, wrist-straining task of fastening tie-wire. The BarLok pliers allow the user to twist tie-wire without having to rotate their wrist, which aims to prevent health issues such as tendonitis and carpal tunnel syndrome. The BarLok pliers look and feel like conventional pliers to promote adoption among workers and independent contractors, but have additional benefits and efficiencies from the pull-to-twist mechanism.

During the award ceremonies, honorable mention was also provided to student teams from the University of Toronto, Waterloo University and McMaster University for their high quality submissions.

The winning team was awarded the first prize of \$3,500. Sandra Miller, VP of the Workplace Safety & Prevention Services and Minerva Canada President and CEO Tony Pasteris presented the awards at the WSPS Partners in Prevention Conference in Mississauga, Ontario on April 30th.

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 2020 competition should visit www.safetymanagementeducation.com for more information about contest rules and regulations. .

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 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.

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