

EcoCAR Teams Gather at the Daytona International Speedway and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University for Winter Workshop

Students may have been hoping for fun, sun and some beach time during the EcoCAR Winter Workshop, but instead they got HILs, emission inspections and even snow!

In early January teams assembled in Daytona Beach, Florida to participate in a three day workshop which included team presentations that were judged by an expert panel of industry and government sponsors. The Hardware-In-The-Loop (HIL) and Outreach presentations took place at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University where teams brought their HIL's to show the progress since they were first unveiled at the Year One finals. The level of the students' controls knowledge impressed judges from dSPACE, National Instruments, General Motors and Argonne National Laboratory. Mississippi State's Tommy Frazier said, "We gained valuable experience presenting our HIL to top industry experts. Their feedback will allow us to create a great running vehicle for the finals in May."

Concurrent to the HIL presentations, outreach coordinators shared their new Web sites, social media networking activities, and overall Year Two outreach efforts. "We were excited to share the things we've been working on over the past few months," said Matt Johnson, ERAU Outreach Coordinator.

While some teams and judges were at the University, other teams were at the Daytona International Speedway for emissions and inspection demonstrations on the track's inner circle. While there were a few days with sun, Florida had a record-shattering cold spell that even included snow one of the days, but the demos successfully carried on. In addition, there were numerous technical sessions held at the Speedway that focused on the rules and details teams will need to know as the head to the competition finals in May, 2010.

During the week, EcoCAR students also had the opportunity to hear legendary Corvette Racing program manager, Doug Fehan, give a presentation on General Motor's green racing initiatives. Specifically Fehan spoke to the teams about Corvette Racing and its association with E85 and the MICHELIN GREEN X Challenge. Doug's presentation got the student's blood pumping and excited to have their own EcoCAR vehicles tearing up the track at GM's Desert Proving Ground this May.

Be sure to check out all the Winter Workshop activities at the Green Garage Blog www.greengarageblog.org.

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