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Cedarville Cars and Robot Best at Ohio State Fair

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University's supermileage cars and robotics team made an impression at national competitions. But now they're impressing at the grandstand.

The Ohio State Fair wrapped up August 6, but not before Cedarville's student-engineers scored Best Technology Exhibit for both the supermileage car and robotics displays. The Ohio Technology and Engineering Educators Association awarded the trophies to both teams.

This was the second honor for the supermileage team, which also earned a People's Choice Award for Technology Education on July 28.

"We wanted to showcase Cedarville University's engineering program and the success we have had with our competitions in a new venue — the Ohio State Fair," said Dr. Larry Zavodney, senior professor of mechanical engineering and the supermileage team adviser.

"Dick Dieffenderfer, director of the Technology and Engineering Showcase in the Lausche Youth Building, told our students he would like to see them come back next year," Zavodney added. "The display got a lot of positive attraction and response. We talked to probably 70-plus families on August 5."

The Cedarville American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) robotics team showed its competition robot from this year's ASEE national contest held in Columbus this June.

"Four of our team members were able to share their experiences and demonstrate the functioning robot to young and old fair goers," noted Clint Kohl, professor of computer engineering and team adviser. "Many were excited and impressed with how capable and sophisticated the Cedarville robot was. It was also a great opportunity to make Cedarville University more recognized."

Cedarville student-engineers designed and built Urbie, Gold Lightning II and Sting, cars not known for speed but ultra-high energy efficiency. The supermileage cars are designed for traveling hundreds, or even more than a thousand miles, per gallon. The Cedarville robot is designed to complete a unique task while navigating a maze-like track as quickly as possible, without human assistance via remote control.

This year, Cedarville earned fourth place in the urban concept combustion engine division and 13th place in the Prototype internal combustion engine division at the Shell Eco-marathon in Detroit. The fourth-place win garnered a \$1,000 prize. This year, the Cedarville robotics team earned a first-place finish in the ASEE national contest.

Zavodney and Chad Jackson, Cedarville's director of creative services, designed the display, which features 42 STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, and math) majors and special programs at Cedarville. These account for half of all majors and programs at Cedarville.

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 3,760 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 100 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs,

strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.

Teaser: Cedarville engineering students Mark McTaggart (L) and Sam Ellicott show off Cedarville's supermileage car Urbie at the Ohio State Fair August 5. The supermileage and robotics displays earned Best Technology Exhibit honors.