

Greater Lowell Tech students have drive to place 3rd in car-building contest

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 04/22/2019 07:17:57 AM EDT



Students in the Automotive Collision and Repair program placed third in the 2019 Pedal Car Challenge. (Courtesy Photo Greater Lowell Tech)



Automotive Collision and Repair students worked with Carpentry students to create a new steering wheel made from Poplar wood. (Courtesy Photo Greater Lowell Tech)



Automotive Collision and Repair attended the 2019 Pedal Car Challenge in Boston. Front row, right to left: sophomore Luis Figueroa, teacher aid John Hamilton, sophomore Louis Dingue, sophomore Samnang Kheav, Automotive Collision and Repair instructor Richard Sauro, sophomore Cameron Champoux, with arms around classmates senior Briana Lozada and senior Chelsea Sanchez, senior Justice Ganyo, senior Stephanie Duarte, senior Devon Cruz, sophomore Yamil Ramos and sophomore Kevin Muller. Second row, right to left: Hector Maldonado, sophomore Tyler Jewell, sophomore Wellington Lantigua, sophomore Kanath Mao, Cluster Director Arthur Cornellier, senior Maximiliano Diaz and senior Edgard Ramos. Back row, left to right: senior Robert St. Hilaire, senior George St. Hilaire and senior Izayah King. (Courtesy Photo Greater Lowell Tech)

TYNGSBORO -- Students in the Automotive Collision and Repair program at Greater Lowell Technical High School took home third place in the 2019 Pedal Car Challenge.

In the contest, sponsored by Summit Racing, participating schools receive a pedal car and are then tasked with customizing the body style, interior, wheel base and wheels, turning out a fully finished and painted project.

Vehicles were judged on customization and detail during the World of Wheels event in Boston last month.

The competition also included a career day for students, who got an opportunity to meet industry professionals, speak with exhibitors about their vehicles, and get an upclose look at the hot rods on display before the show.

This is the first year Greater Lowell Tech participated in the challenge, with 20 students attending the event in Boston. Students first received their pedal car in October and worked over several months to apply their technical skills to this hands-on project that involved planning, design, creativity and resourcefulness.

By the end of the project, students had completely transformed the car, adding new features (like a trunk compartment that opens and closes, a custom seat cover and bumper, and repainting the vehicle.

To help trick out the car, Automotive Collision and Repair worked collaboratively with their peers in a number of technical areas of study. CADD students made a motor, exhaust pipe and Gryphon hood ornament to represent the school's mascot.

Metal Fabrication cut out a windshield for the vehicle, while Carpentry students made a one-of-a-kind poplar-wood steering wheel.

"This was a great collaborative project for students that really allowed them to bring together everything they've been learning in their technical shops while taking pride in their work and their school," Automotive Collision and Repair instructor Richard Sauro said. "I'm extremely proud of everyone who took part in this project. Their hard work really paid off."