



Challenge X Teams Pit Stop at Jay Leno's Garage

*Kristen De La Rosa
Manager, Advanced Vehicle Technology Competitions
Center for Transportation Research
Argonne National Laboratory*

Pit stops on a road rally are sometimes a necessity, but for 150 Challenge X students and their competition vehicles, one stop during a California tour was about more than just refueling. Recently, Challenge X students participated in a west coast road rally and made a pit stop along the route to spend the afternoon at Jay Leno's Garage.

The late-night talk show host has a vehicle collection that spans 100 years of automotive history ranging from a 1906 Baker electric car to a 2007 Corvette fueled by ethanol. Leno graciously opened his doors for the students to tour the collection and then spent the afternoon learning about the various technologies and platforms the teams selected for their competition vehicles. He even took The Ohio State vehicle for a spin.

The tour of Leno's garage was just one of a dozen Challenge X activities held in Los Angeles and Anaheim, CA during the Challenge X West Coast Road Rally and Winter Workshop in December.

Managed by Argonne National Laboratory and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and General Motors, *Challenge X: Crossover to Sustainable Mobility* provides 17 university teams from across North America real-world engineering experience and the opportunity to follow the GM global vehicle development process to create advanced propulsion technology solutions that will increase energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of vehicles. Each team has re-engineered a Chevy Equinox with a range of hybrid, plug-in or fuel cell propulsion systems, powered by alternative fuels such as biodiesel, ethanol and hydrogen.

By participating in the Challenge X program, the students gain real-world engineering skills and hands-on learning that will better prepare them for their future engineering careers and will help seed the industry with engineers who are committed to advancing vehicle technology to address the energy and transportation challenges of the 21st Century. Since the competition began in 2004, GM has hired more than 50 Challenge X students from the program.

In May the Challenge X teams will head to the East Coast where they will embark upon a 300 mile road rally from New York City to the steps of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The Challenge X competition series will culminate in a finish line finale at the U.S. Department of Energy, where the winning team will be announced.

Additional information about Challenge X is available on the Web at <http://www.challengex.org>.
Video of the Challenge X tour at Leno's Garage can be seen at http://www.jaylenosgarage.com/video/video_player.shtml?vid=201465.



Jay Leno drives The Ohio State team vehicle during the Challenge X student tour of Leno's Garage in California.

###