

## High School Students From Michigan and California Take Top Spots in FCA Drive for Design Competition

### *Competition Educates and Encourages Students to Pursue Careers in Automotive Design*

May 8, 2020, Auburn Hills, Mich. - Three students from Michigan and California have taken the top spots in this year's FCA Drive for Design contest. Entries submitted from high school students in grades 10-12 from across the country were reviewed virtually by FCA's automotive design team and special guest judge Josh Welton. This year's 10-week competition asked students to sketch a Ram truck of the future.

"All of the entries were impressive, the work was very focused with a notable attention to detail, as well as their thought process – these are characteristics we look for when we go to hire designers to work for FCA," said Mark Trostle, Head of Ram Truck and Mopar Exterior Design for FCA – North America. "Automotive design is a growing field and often overlooked by parents and students, our goal is to inspire and change that perspective. There are many career paths available within automotive design where young designers will have the opportunity to create some of the most exciting and technologically advanced products on the road today, as well as create what's possible for the future."

Trostle knows firsthand what it's like to be given an opportunity to excel in this field. In 2013, he introduced Drive for Design, which is based on a contest he won as a high school student. He credits that experience as something that led him to his current professional role, heading the design efforts for some of the most desired vehicles on the road. Today, he's passing the torch to three promising automotive designers.

The three student winners of the 2020 Drive for Design competition are:

- First place – Job Skandera, 12th grade, Santa Clara, California
- Second place – Vincent Piaskowski, 11th grade, Birmingham, Michigan
- Third place – Alex David Kirschmann, 11th grade, Auburn Hills, Michigan

Second-place winner Vincent Piaskowski is also a second-time winner, placing third in last year's competition.

"I'm a truck guy, so I was especially stoked to see what this year's competitors would bring to the table. They did not disappoint! The three winners each showed off sky high potential in technical skill and imagination without sacrificing what makes a Ram a Ram: functionality," said Josh Welton, Guest Judge. "If it's going to be 'Built to Serve' it needs to first be 'designed to serve,' I'll be first in line to rock any of their drawings should they come to life!"

Due to recent circumstances, awards for the annual contest were changed to include a more hands-on experience that will include virtual networking and design sketching demonstrations with members of the FCA design team along with electronic creative tools of the trade:

- First place - Wacom MobileStudio Pro 16
- Second and third places - Apple iPad Pro and Apple Pencil
- Virtual networking and design sketching demonstrations with FCA designers will be planned for all winners

"While we were not able to carry out our award ceremonies this year, we do want to give special thanks to our partners EyesOn Design and College for Creative Studies," said Trostle.

For detailed contest rules and information, visit [www.FCAdrivefordesign.com](http://www.FCAdrivefordesign.com).

### **About Drive for Design**

Launched in 2013, the FCA Product Design Office created its Drive for Design contest as an innovative way to educate young artists about careers in automotive design. Starting locally in Detroit, Drive for Design has grown to become a national contest that awards talented students with prizes and unique opportunities to further develop their design skills.

**About CCS**

The College for Creative Studies (CCS) is a nonprofit, private college authorized by the Michigan Education Department to grant bachelor's and master's degrees. CCS, located in midtown Detroit, strives to provide students with the tools needed for successful careers in the dynamic and growing creative industries.

Founded in 1906 as the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts, CCS plays a key role in Detroit's cultural and educational communities. A private, fully accredited college, CCS enrolls more than 1,400 students, pursuing Master of Fine Arts degrees in Color and Materials Design, Interaction Design, Integrated Design and Transportation Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Advertising Design, Art Education, Crafts, Entertainment Arts, Fashion Accessories Design, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Illustration, Interior Design, Photography, Product Design and Transportation Design.

**About EyesOn Design**

A benefit for the Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology (DIO), a not-for-profit corporation, EyesOn Design is a major source of revenue for the DIO's research, education and support group programs for the visually impaired. The DIO is a division of the Department of Ophthalmology of the Henry Ford Health System.

**FCA**

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