

## Dave Carlson

Director of Public & Government Affairs  
AAA Idaho  
7155 W. Denton St., Boise, Idaho 83704  
**Direct:** 208-658-4401



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**For Immediate Release**

## CONTEST TO DETERMINE IDAHO'S TOP AUTOMOTIVE TEEN TECHS



BOISE – (April 20, 2015) Twenty Idaho high school automotive students are set to compete against each other and the clock at the 2015 **Ford/AAA Student Auto Skills** contest, May 1 in Nampa.

Two-person teams representing the state's ten top qualifying high school programs will face off at the Idaho state finals of this competition at the College of Western Idaho's Nampa Automotive campus, 9:30 a.m., Friday May 1. Students will vie for scholarships and bragging rights to represent Idaho at the national finals of this completion in June.

Each team faces a tough task: Race the clock and each other to correctly identify and repair the problems with their identically 'bugged' 2015 Ford Fiesta automobiles. The contest is designed to replicate the kind of challenging real-world experiences auto technicians will face working for a dealership or an independent auto repair facility.

"Customers expect automotive professionals to complete their work quickly and correctly," says AAA Idaho contest committee chairman Dave Carlson. "We make it tougher by putting teams alongside their competitors and giving them just 90 minutes to complete their work."

Students from all fifty states are competing for millions of dollars in scholarships, trophies and prizes at the state and national Ford/AAA Auto Skills competitions. One winning team from each state receives an expense-paid trip to the National Finals of this event at the Ford World Headquarters this June in Dearborn, Mich.

The competition gives Ford and AAA a platform to demonstrate their commitment to the future of today's youth and build awareness of career opportunities in the automotive service industry.

"This competition can jump-start education and career plans as it develops a quality workforce equipped to respond to increasingly sophisticated auto repair challenges," according to Carlson.

These top ten teams qualified for this 'hands on' contest based on their scores on a written qualifying exam conducted earlier this year:

Buhl High School  
Burley (Cassia Regional Tech Ctr.)  
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Boise (Dehryl Dennis Tech Ed.)  
Idaho Falls High School  
Rathdrum (Kootenai Tech Ed.)  
Lewiston High School  
Meridian High School  
Payette River Tech Acad.  
Rigby High School

Dean Lemley – Troy Bowman  
Kyle Watterson – Theodore Whitfield  
Michael Dayley – Colby Saylor  
Blake Parkinson – Austin Stuart  
Lexus Mojica – Nathaneal Egbert  
Erik Davies – Wes Browning  
Zac Zwerneman – Hunter Ellis  
Clint McKague – Phillip Penrod  
Andrew Poplin – Scout Hoburg  
Daniel Robison – Isaac Stromberg

The public is invited to attend the 90-minute competition 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 1 at the College of Western Idaho, located across Franklin Road from the Idaho Center in Nampa.

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**AAA Idaho is affiliated with AAA Oregon/Idaho, which provides 756,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive related services. AAA serves 55 million member motorists in North America.**

*Editor: An audio version of this news release is available on the AAA News Hotline. In Boise, call 342-9391. Outside Boise, call Toll Free, 800-999-9391. Ask for the AAA News Hotline.*