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## **Safety Awards Honour Innovative Student Engineering Designs**

Promoter of workplace health and safety instills mindset via post-secondary classrooms

TORONTO, ON – Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc. congratulates the winners of its 2015 James Ham Safe Design Award Competition. The annual award challenges Canadian university engineering students to make an original contribution toward integrating safety into engineering design.

Iman Chalabi, an engineering undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, clinched the top prize for introducing a safety system to detect and minimize the consequences from fires, explosions and spills associated with a tank car incident. The team of Alex Dragojlov, Ben MacNally, Kevin Mitchell, Osama Siddique and Kyle Stewart, Mechanical engineering undergraduate students at McMaster University, took second prize for designing a system to address musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) related injuries in the upper and lower back brought about by repetitive tasks and awkward work environments.

Iman Chalabi will be awarded the first prize of \$3,500 while the winning runner-up team members will share \$1,500. Elizabeth Mills, CEO of Workplace Safety & Prevention Services and Minerva Canada President and CEO Tony Pasteris will present the awards at the WSPS Partners in Prevention Conference in Mississauga, Ontario on April 30.

Two other university teams deserved an honorable mention during our review of their submissions for this award. The University of British Columbia engineering team of Andrew Wong, Kome Eto and Ada Liu, designed and built a prototype of a hydraulic portable valve operator and conducted field tests. Also, the University of Toronto team of Shatha Abuelaish, Fei Ba, Priyadeep Jaswal and Alex Lui worked very closely with the Hamilton Professional Firefighters Association and received their strong endorsement for their design of a web and mobile-based system for capturing firefighters' exposure and medical data. "I congratulate all these students from the University of Toronto, McMaster and the University of British Columbia for their unique and innovative designs – they will clearly be among our future champions of health and safety in the workforce," says Pasteris.

The award honours James Milton Ham whose Royal Commission Report on Health and Safety led to the creation of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in 1979 and to the adoption of the Internal Responsibility System in Ontario workplaces. James Ham trained as an engineer with a secondary field of study in sociology; his writings emphasized 'society and human needs'. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1980 and died in 1997.

Minerva Canada's James Ham Safe Design Awards:

- Encourage students and engineering faculty members to integrate safety into all designs.
- Produce safer designs of devices, processes and systems.
- Raise awareness of Process Safety Management (PSM) and Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) in engineering schools.

Through the Minerva Awards program, students in Canadian engineering schools are being challenged to:

- Suggest ways to improve the existing design of devices, processes or systems.
- Envision new, innovative designs that will eliminate or reduce potential hazards.
- Create tools to help manufacturers and workplaces integrate safety into new or retrofit designs.

Students interested in entering the 2016 competition should visit [www.safetymanagementeducation.com](http://www.safetymanagementeducation.com) for rules and important dates.

#### About Minerva Canada Safety Management Education Inc.:

Minerva Canada, a non-profit volunteer-run organization, aims to be a global leader in health and safety management education by influencing the curriculum of post-secondary institutions to ensure that future business leaders create healthier and safer workplaces. The only organization of its kind, it advocates for increased inclusion of health and safety concepts in curricula; educates the educators by providing business and engineering professors and instructors in universities and colleges with practical, curriculum-ready tools and initiatives; forges partnerships with governments, associations and accreditation boards; and connects educators with Canada's business enterprises to learn what industry seeks from new graduates entering the workforce and how health and safety management concepts are being applied in the workplace.

All resources and activities are provided free of charge to educators, financially supported by our roster of blue chip corporate, organizational and government sponsors. Key sponsors include the Ontario Ministry of Labour, the Ontario Workplace Safety and Prevention Services, Imperial Oil Limited, General Motors of Canada, DuPont Canada, Nova Chemicals, Bruce Power, Shell Canada, CF Industries, Nexen, BASF, Chemtrade Logistics, Dow Chemicals, Erco Worldwide, H.L.Blachford, Canada Post, Trimac, the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals, the Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, Mitacs, Mirarco and the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering.

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