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Women employees at Ford engine plants highlight progress

WINDSOR, Ont. — Media outlets worldwide called attention to outstanding females on and around International Women’s Day (March 8). Not surprisingly, top Ford talent received some of that attention from *The Windsor Star* newspaper.

“Head of maintenance. Female. Manufacturing engineer. Female. In charge of the assembly line. Female.”

Women make up about a third of the local Ford management team and their leader is also a she: Shaun Whitehead, operations manager for the Ford Motor Company of Canada’s two Windsor engine plants.

“It isn’t even something we consciously think about now,” Whitehead said Thursday of the number of women in management. “There is a deep belief that diversity and inclusion is really going to make the team better, is going to make us stronger, is going to make us more competitive.”



Several women from the Windsor Engine Plant’s leadership team, who were recently featured by *The Windsor Star*.

The article explains how Whitehead no longer thinks of herself as a female working amongst men, but rather a part of a diverse and talented team working to build the exciting engines that power Ford Mustangs and Ford F-150’s.

To learn more about Windsor’s workplace diversity, including a video with several members of the Windsor team, go to the Windsor Star’s website: <http://bit.ly/WindsorFordEngine> (RELATED: Check out Ford’s Women in Manufacturing profiles on @Ford Online)

Pracey family approaches 100 years with Ford at Windsor

WINDSOR, Ont. — Most of us need to dig into historical archives or use our imagination to think about what it was like to work for Ford in 1918. Plenty of the stories have been lost in translation over the years. But for one Windsor Site employee, he has almost 100 years of family history to draw on.

Shane Pracey works in Engine Assembly at WEP and is a fourth-generation employee of Ford Motor Company of Canada, Ltd. His great grandfather, Everett Pracey, started at the Windsor Site in 1918 and retired 35 years later as a general foreman. Everett was able to witness some major milestones. In 1928, the first Model A engine was produced in Windsor with CA1 as the starting code. The Model A was marketed as “The Real Canadian Car.”

Everett’s son Arthur joined the work force at Ford in the 1950’s and worked in the Cutter Grind department. During his time at the Windsor Site, he witnessed a \$15 million upgrade to the Foundry in 1962. Arthur was also on site when Ford introduced the first Mustang on April 17, 1964. Although the Mustang wasn’t assembled in Windsor, the engine, drive trains and other components were made there.

But the tradition wasn’t quite broken yet. In the 1960s, Arthur’s son, Ron Pracey, hired on at Ford. Following in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps, Ron worked a long and accomplished career of 30 years.

Then in August of 1995, Shane joined his dad at the company. For almost the past 20 years, Shane has worked at the Windsor Site. “It’s pretty awesome to work at the same location that my great-grandfather worked at so many years ago,” said Shane. “Even though the buildings may be different... think of all the history and accomplishments we have had.”



Shane Pracey, a fourth-generation Windsor employee

From Everett witnessing the 50th anniversary of Ford, to Shane witnessing the 100th Anniversary, only time will tell what Ford milestone the Pracey family will witness next.

Lima Engine Employee Spots Trouble, Prevents Quality Issue

LIMA, Ohio - It's the "shoulda, woulda, coulda" that can create chaos in the manufacturing industry where just one missed quality check can spell disaster. Fortunately, Lima Engine Plant's (LEP) latest employee of the month, Mike Rager, isn't about to let that happen.

Rager's normal inspection for water pump porosity was anything but normal on Jan. 9 when he noticed a "non clean-up" condition. The block in question was rejected and the foundry representative and area process engineer further reviewed the issue.



Pictured are (from the left) UAW 1219 Bargaining Committeeman Doug Collins, Senior Process Coach Alex Tellez, Employee of the Month Mike Rager and LEP Plant Manager Mike Felix

A determination was then made that the ZZ locator, which is used to position the center of the block for machining, was not machined in the proper position by the cuber.

"If Mike hadn't caught it, the block would have gone through being machined as normal," said Senior Process Coach Alex Tellez, who nominated Rager for the recognition. "The piston bores have seal sleeves and if offset that piston bore sleeve to where it was very thin-walled on one side and thick on the other. If that gets through, it probably would have caused a failure at 40,000 to 50,000 miles, or it may have just heated the engine up right away."

After Rager discovered the defect, the block supplier was contacted and a list of 101 potential defective blocks were loaded into the block line. Additionally, a global quarantine was issued to locate all suspects blocks, some of which had already been through assembly and shipped to B&A. Six of the motors had already been placed in vehicles.

"Quality and monetarily, we would have had to replace all those motors and of course customer satisfaction was an issue," Tellez said, adding "Nobody wants to be out in the middle of the road and have their engine blow up and be stuck out there."

LEP Plant Manager Mike Felix thanked Rager for his attention to detail and focus on building quality engines.

"This was a major concern for us and a great catch by Mike," Felix said, adding "had he not caught this, we could have been looking at multiple engine failures in the hands of our customers, so it truly is a great job."

Ford Fund announces William Clay Ford Scholarships

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor Company Fund will award U.S. \$1 million in automotive design scholarships during the next 20 years to commemorate the late William Clay Ford's contributions to the design legacy of Ford Motor Company.

The grant will be paid at the rate of \$50,000 per year during the next 20 years, awarding five \$10,000 scholarships annually to outstanding college sophomores or juniors pursuing a degree in automotive design.

Details of the program will be announced in the coming months.

St. Patrick's Day bake sale helps fund year's worth of efforts

CLAYCOMO, Mo. — Wearing plenty of green and ample smiles, the Civil Rights Committee of UAW Local 249 set up in a chilly hallway to host a spring bake sale for St. Patrick's Day.

Led by Tamara Maxwell, committee chairwoman and metal finisher in Truck Body, the group worked with a Kansas City-area Krispy Kreme to offer doughnuts. Contributing bakers also donated a multitude of other green-themed goodies.

The Civil Rights Committee hosts bake sales throughout the year to contribute to its general fund. Money collected provides college scholarships, one for a boy and one for a girl. The group also funds the "Angel Tree," a holiday toy drive with The Salvation Army for children, and contributes to the Rose Brooks Domestic Violence Center of Kansas City.



Members of UAW local 249's Civil Rights Committee host St. Patrick's Day bake sale

"It means a lot to me because we feel there are a lot of people who go without, especially kids," said Maxwell. "I have kids and know that not everyone is able to pay for it all. So we try to help."