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Formula SAE Technology and Its Significance for Engineering Education

ABSTRACT:

The Formula SAE is the premier student design competition in the world. It challenges student teams to design, analyze, build, and compete with a formula-style racecar. The rules are very open compared to most forms of racing so that creativity and innovation can be explored. This results in not only some of the most interesting and innovative cars, but it inspires the students to develop technically and professionally. This talk will discuss the details of the competition and some of the technologies developed in the UTA FSAE racecars. Beyond the engineering and technology developed in the cars, we will discuss the significance of this project to the development of the student, the advantages for the recognition of the university, and how recruiters view these students.



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BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Bob Woods joined UT Arlington in 1974 as a Mechanical Engineering Professor after receiving his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University and conducting fluidics research with the government in Washington, D.C. He received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2006 and was elected to UT Arlington's Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2007 in recognition of his exemplary teaching in both undergraduate and graduate-level courses.

Dr. Woods serves as the faculty advisor for UT Arlington's Mini Baja and Formula SAE racing teams. These are classes of race cars designed, built, maintained and driven by college students in events governed by rules formulated by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Over the years, Dr. Woods has overseen the development of 59 racing teams.

His leadership of UT Arlington's Formula SAE racing program has resulted in numerous championships over the years. His teams have won eight national competitions in the U.S., in addition to wins in England, Australia and Japan. In addition to developing student teams, he was instrumental in the growth of Formula SAE programs nationwide and has received numerous awards for his contributions. He was the first recipient of the "Carroll Smith Mentors Cup" in 1999 and in 2004, the Sports Car Club of America established the "Dr. Bob Woods Cup" in his honor. This award is presented to the best student driver in SCCA events.

He has been invited to speak at several universities to help them develop successful Formula SAE programs and is respected world-wide for his experience in Formula SAE.