Exhibit showcases LTU students’ cars, projects

SOUTHFIELD — College students show how to implement both the theory and practice of automotive engineering at the Lawrence Technological University exhibit at the North American International Auto Show.

In 2010, Lawrence Tech competed in three race competitions sponsored by SAE International – Formula SAE, Baja SAE and Formula Hybrid. All three vehicles are on display at the Lawrence Tech exhibit, located at the Congress Street entrance on the north end of the Cobo Hall concourse. The Auto Show runs through Jan. 23.

These year-long racing projects require undergraduate and graduate students to work in teams similar to those they will encounter in industry. They research, design, build and test their vehicles, as well as raise funds and create marketing presentations. At the end of the academic year, they match their knowledge and skill against other teams in regional and international competitions.

Lawrence Tech competes in the Formula Hybrid competition endorsed by SAE International and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Students design, build, and race an open-wheel, single-seat, hybrid racecar focusing on the engineering of the hybrid drive system and vehicle suspension to maximize performance in acceleration, autocross, and endurance. Lawrence Tech’s 2010 team placed third in class and won General Motors’ third place design award.

The Baja SAE team designed and built an off-road vehicle to survive the severe punishment of rough terrain. The 2009 team finished 27th overall out of 100 Midwest teams, winning third place in land maneuverability and the third in the tractor pull.

The Formula SAE team designed, fabricated and raced a small, formula-style, autocross racing car, which was judged in high-performance track trials in acceleration, skidpad, autocross, fuel economy, and endurance.

Lawrence Tech’s 2010 car finished 16th overall, 11th in endurance, and seventh in design.

The Lawrence Tech exhibit also displays the work of students in the transportation design bachelor’s degree program, which was launched in 2007 with support and encouragement from the auto industry.

Lawrence Technological University, itu.edu, offers more than 100 undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degree programs in the Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Management. Founded in 1932, the 4,500-student, private university pioneered evening classes and today has a growing number of weekend and online programs. Lawrence Tech’s 102-acre campus is in Southfield, and programs are also offered in Detroit, Lansing, Petoskey, Traverse City and Toronto. Lawrence Tech also partners with universities in Mexico, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.
The Formula SAE and the Formula Hybrid racing vehicles designed and built by Lawrence Tech students are on display at the North American International Auto Show at Cobo Hall in Detroit through Jan. 23.