



Mort Schwartz Excellence In Education Award

Recipient: Jim John

Chairman

Aftermarket Management Program

Northwood University

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(The following may contain unintelligible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

KATHLEEN SCHMATZ: I would like to talk about the Mort Schwartz Excellence in Education Award, to begin our afternoon. The award, as you may remember, was created to honor one of the automotive aftermarket's greatest success stories, a man who rose to the very top of our industry, by virtue of his talent, his hard work, and his dedication. Mort has always been a very strong industry advocate for education programs and certainly has put back into our industry much more than he ever took out.

So in honor of his many achievements, each year, the Mort Schwartz Excellence in Education Award is given to the person or the institution or the company that best advances those concepts and programs for education or continuing education in the North American automotive aftermarket. Nominations for the prestigious award are accepted and evaluated by the AAIA Education Committee, in accordance with the candidates' innovation of new aftermarket education programs, the advancement of existing aftermarket education programs, or the superlative effort to further promote such programs as established by Mort.

I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2009 Mort Schwartz Excellence in Education Award goes to Jim John, of Northwood University.

Where's Jim?

Come on up and join me.

While Jim's walking up here, as you know, Jim's currently the Chairman of the Automotive Aftermarket Management Department on the Midland Campus of Northwood. He was selected by his Education Committee peers, in recognition of his career as an advocate and a leader in aftermarket education. His contributions to AAIA's Education Committee are many, and he's been associated with our industry for about 39 years or so. He worked for such companies as Champion Sparkplug, and NAPA, and Dryad, now Activent. He's a graduate of AWDA's University Automotive Aftermarket Professional Program, served on the Scholarship Committee at SEMO, and the Education Committee of AAIA, as I mentioned.

And Jim and his wife, Denise, and their daughter, Megan, reside in beautiful Midland, Michigan. Thank you, Jim, for all you've done.

JIM JOHN: All right.

KATHLEEN SCHMATZ: There you go.

JIM JOHN: Thank you. I'm thrilled with this.

KATHLEEN SCHMATZ: (Unintelligible) anything?

JIM JOHN: Yes.

KATHLEEN SCHMATZ: All right. I'll hold this for you.

JIM JOHN: All right. Thank you.

KATHLEEN SCHMATZ: Okay.

JIM JOHN: Thank you. Thank you. First of all, I want to thank AAIA, and the Education Committee, for presenting this award. I'm flattered. I'm really flattered by this recognition. This award is really significant to me, because it's the Mort Schwartz Education Award. And I consider Mort a friend and a mentor. In fact, he assisted me in my current employment with Northwood University. And I want to thank Northwood University for allowing me to teach the aftermarket program for all of these years.

And, finally, for those of you who are looking to employ young people for this industry, call me, as I've got some great candidates. Thank you.

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Transcribed by: slf/ss