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## Canadian University Students Help Develop Cleaner, Safer Vehicles for Tomorrow

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barrie, Ontario: The vehicle you drive in 10 years may be a cleaner, lighter and safer version thanks to Canadian university student researchers. More than 200 student researchers who are investigating a divergent range of topics, including new materials with which to build a vehicle, and how to best accommodate elderly drivers will discuss research and development opportunities at the AUTO21 Highly Qualified People Conference at Georgian College's Barrie Campus on May 15-17, 2006.

AUTO21, a federal Networks of Centres of Excellence, focuses on multidisciplinary automotive research and the development of highly qualified people (HQP) for future work in the automotive sector. The graduate and post-graduate level student researchers currently study at one of 39 universities involved in the Network and contribute to AUTO21's 41 research projects.

"AUTO21 promotes a multidisciplinary approach to automotive research and development, and the student researchers develop a full understanding and appreciation for this methodology at the annual HQP conference," said Dr. Peter R. Frise, AUTO21 Scientific Director and CEO. "With backgrounds in engineering, nursing, business, economics and many others, the students bring a fresh look to helping the Canadian automotive industry meet the challenges of tomorrow."

A key component of the conference is the Honda Canada HQP Poster Competition, where student research teams will vie for prizes totalling \$20,000 and a trip for four finalists to the final evaluation round at the AUTO21 Scientific Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia on June 13 and 14, 2006.

In addition to a series of research presentations, the students will hear from industry leaders such as James Miller, executive vice president of Honda Canada Inc., and Audrey Zavodsky, GT-Series race car driver and corporate occupational health nurse, Ford Motor Company. The students will also tour the Honda of Canada Manufacturing facility in Alliston to see leading-edge technology in action.

"We are particularly proud to host the AUTO21 HQP Conference as many of our students are also preparing for careers in the automotive sector through our Canadian Automotive Institute and Centre for Automotive Parts Expertise," said Robert Emptage, Georgian College's Dean of Engineering Technology and Applied Research. "This conference and our partnership with the University of Windsor are good examples of how colleges and universities are working closely together to provide education and research opportunities to students."

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More than 230 researchers and close to 400 student researchers contribute to AUTO21's auto-related research and development projects, supported by approximately \$12-million per year in combined federal and industry funding. Research occurs in the areas of health, safety and injury prevention; societal issues; materials and manufacturing; design processes; powertrains, fuels and emissions; and intelligent systems and sensors. AUTO21 is funded through the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada program.

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