

Kofa Auto Students Place 1st at State Competition

(Yuma, AZ) Kofa High School Automotive students, Jose Salgado and Francisco Zacarias took 1st place at the Arizona Automotive Dealers Association (AADA) Automotive Troubleshooting Contest in conjunction with the 2004 Arizona International Auto Show held Thanksgiving weekend.

The event, sponsored by the Valley Auto Dealers Association (VADA), pitted Arizona high school two-student teams and charged them with the task of diagnosing and repairing a rigged vehicle. Faults included fuel problems and electrical malfunctions. Students used actual repair orders with customer complaints to help them troubleshoot the problems in the allotted time frame.

To qualify for the hands-on state competition, Salgado and Zacarias had to pass a written test in October against 172 other students.

Salgado and Zacarias each received a \$3,000 scholarship to Universal Technical Institute, an upper and lower Snap-On toolbox, and a digital volt/Ohm meter. For participating in the competition, they also received a variety of other goodies from sponsors of the event.

As first place winners, the Kofa student team will represent Arizona in the national competition in New York City in April.

Their instructor, Norm Champagne is excited about the career opportunities available to these students. Both students were offered intern jobs at a dealership in Phoenix if they choose to continue their training at the factory school.

"We are looking forward to training and competing in the national contest." Champagne said.

Salgado and Zacarias are both SkillsUSA members and have prior competition experience. Both students have 3 years experience in CTE classes.