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CORNELL BAJA RACING WINS IRON TEAM AWARD AT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Peoria, IL, June. 8, 2018 – The Cornell Baja Racing Team seized the Iron Team Award for the first time at the 2014 Baja SAE International Competition hosted by Caterpillar Inc. in Peoria, Illinois. The Iron Team Award is given to the team that has the highest aggregate score across all three competitions in the North American Series.

The competition, which began in 1976 as the Mini Baja competitions, has 100 international collegiate teams design and build an off-road vehicle suitable for use in a variety of conditions. The overall goal of the competition is to design a functional, durable, versatile and cost effective vehicle that can be mass-produced by a fictitious firm.

The series level win came with several other awards at the Illinois competition. The team beat out stiff competition from 3rd place McGill University and 2nd place Oregon State University to take 1st Overall in Illinois. Cornell also won the 1st Honda Overall Dynamics Award for excellence in the acceleration, hill climb, maneuverability and rock crawl events. Of these individual events, Cornell won a 1st place award for having the best time on the hill climb. Finally, the team also won 1st in the 4-hour endurance race, finishing a full two laps ahead of the next car. Winning the endurance race was another first in the team’s ten year history.

Earlier this year, the team attended two other competitions in El Paso, Texas and Pittsburg, Kansas. In these competitions Cornell won 3rd and 4th place Overall respectively. Going into the Illinois competition, the Iron Team field of competitors was very close with Rochester Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, all within 9 points of Cornell. There are 1000 points up for grabs in each competition. It wasn’t until the endurance race on the last day that Cornell surged ahead to claim the prize. Taking the first place position after the first lap, Cornell maintained its lead for the remainder of the 47 lap race to win.

The Cornell University team of 38—consisting mostly of mechanical engineers—has been researching, designing, and building this latest vehicle iteration since the summer of 2013. In order to make competing in a three competition series a reality, the team raised over $21,000 last fall through a month long crowd funding campaign. While a lot of time and effort went into the creation of the winning vehicle, the Baja team also recognizes that none of it would be possible without the monetary and in-kind support from family, friends, Cornell alumni, and corporate sponsors.

The full list of Cornell Baja’s awards and accomplishments for past years can be seen under the History section of the team’s site, www.cornellbaja.com. We are still collecting pictures and media from the competitions this year, please send any media to Andrew Crego at asc229@cornell.edu as well as contact him if you would like to receive any pictures from this event.

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