

# LAURA WONTROP KLAUSER

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Automotive Engineer and enthusiast with career experience in racing, advanced development, release, and integration. Specializes in efficiency improvement by building and leading collaborative teams as demonstrated by GM Racing Programs and Formula SAE Dynamics Event Coordinator roles. Proven success in a high stakes, quick moving, high stress environment. Program Manager experience includes design approval, budgeting, scheduling, contract negotiations, and future portfolio planning. Also skilled at customer relations and brand representation.

## CAREER

### GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, NA Product Development

Sports Car Racing Program Manager (Detroit, MI)

01/21-Present

- ◆ New position created for managing all sportscar racing programs in GM. Current programs include Corvette C8.R, Cadillac DPi-V.R, and Camaro GT4.R. Responsibilities from prior Cadillac and Camaro GT4.R Racing Program Manger role carryover with the additional responsibility for Corvette C8.R program and all future sportscar racing programs. Corvette C8.R is a factory racing program that campaigns in IMSA WeatherTech and selected WEC races.
- ◆ Create opportunities for shared learnings across the GM sports car racing programs and strength tech transfer between racing and production.
- ◆ Developed a Sports Car Racing Vision for GM Motorsports Competition Engineering that maximizes global exposure with carry over budget. Also sets a path to grow racing engineering expertise in house.
- ◆ Build the plan for developing new racing platforms including selecting which partners to work with, establishing program goals, and estimating new program budgets. Coordinate GM support for programs which entails funding and in house engineering resources.

Cadillac and Camaro GT4.R Racing Program Manager (Detroit, MI)

06/16-12/20

- ◆ Manage the Cadillac DPi-V.R program that races in IMSA WeatherTech, which has won the Rolex 24 in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and both the Manufacturer's and Drivers' Championships in 2017 & 2018. Also manage the Camaro GT4.R program currently racing in IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge and eligible to race in SRO. Managed the ATS-V.R program that raced in Pirelli World Challenge through 2017.
- ◆ Coordinate development and issues resolution for the racecar with collaboration between the chassis and engine suppliers. Approve final design. Key example is the engine head redesign for 2019 that eliminated an overheat issue. Ensure branding and image are properly represented and the car is capable of winning.
- ◆ Serve as single point contact for GM with the teams campaigning the racecars. Negotiate contracts and ensure teams have what they need to be successful. Approve which teams can race the cars and determine what relationship is best suited between them and GM.
- ◆ Represent GM with the sanctioning body and competitor OEs. Protect GM's performance level and collaborate with the Manufacturer Council to improve the execution of Balance of Performance and encourage growth of the sport.
- ◆ Establish yearly budget and ensure program stays within limits despite company wide cuts and other unplanned circumstances.
- ◆ Serve as spokesperson for racing programs participating in interviews and attending customer touchpoint events to promote brand enthusiasm.
- ◆ Led new Racing Support Trailer design, sourcing, fabricating, and outfitting project. Reduced company expenses on support trailers by over \$100,000 per year and launched a brand new, larger trailer for the IndyCar and IMSA programs. Serve as trailer coordinator and expert.
- ◆ Established the COVID safety protocol for all GM Racing Support Trailers, which yielded no employee COVID issues in the 2020 season.

Vehicle Noise, Vibration, and Harshness Integration Engineer: Small, Compact, and Mini Cars (Milford, MI)

09/13-06/16

- ◆ Assessed car NVH powertrain integration performance and worked with suppliers, release engineers, and program team leadership to determine effective options for improvement to meet customer and federal requirements. Some projects included reducing fuel line buzz, tuning engine mounts, and eliminating AC growl.
- ◆ Developed, organized, and ran ride trips to provide program teams with real world driving experience and exposure to issues.

Chassis Suspension Design Release Engineer: Mid-Size Car and Cadillac CT6 (Warren, MI)

07/11-09/13

- ◆ Ensured correct optimized parts were designed, sourced, produced, and shipped to vehicle manufacturing sites on time with quality and within budget. Parts included spring steel for Mid-Size Car and CT6 and shocks for CT6. Supported Mid-Size Car launch and CT6 sourcing.
- ◆ Coordinated the shift from purchasing completed shock assemblies to sourcing individual components and assembling in house for CT6.

Advanced Engineering Operations Engineer (Warren, MI)

09/10-7/11

- ◆ Supported the 2011 refresh of Global Work Load Model by collaborating with global team to create a common definition of vehicle integration work as dictated by hardware changes. Projected work force needs based on future portfolio.

Vehicle Definition and Balance Engineer: Corvette, Cadillac XTS and CTS, G-Van, and Midsize Truck (Warren, MI)

07/08-09/10

- ◆ Guided vehicle program teams by researching and representing the voice of the customer to set program wins, prices of entry, and fuel economy targets, and achieve a balance of budget constraints and vehicle attributes to strengthen GM's portfolio. Translated Marketing needs into engineering metrics. Conducted focus groups and benchmarking workshops to incorporate real world feedback.

Coop Rotation Program – Performance Engineering (Warren, MI), Vehicle Assembly Engineer (Lordstown, OH)

06-08/07(MI), 06-08/06 (OH)

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, B.S. <b>Cum Laude</b> in Mechanical Engineering	May 2008 – Troy, NY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, M.S. Global Automotive and Manufacturing Engineering	May 2014 – Ann Arbor, MI
DFSS BLACK BELT	December 2013

## EXTRACURRICULAR LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERIENCE

FORMULA SAE DYNAMIC EVENTS COORDINATOR	09/09-Present
◆ Lead team of volunteers responsible for the dynamic events portion of the collegiate design project Formula SAE Michigan Competition hosting 120 global teams. Improved overall experience by relocating events, establishing consistent communication, and increasing event efficiency.	
◆ Participated in Formula SAE as a student serving as Team Leader in 2007 when team placed 9 <sup>th</sup> in the Michigan competition.	
SAE DETROIT SECTION BOARD (~8000 members) – Section Chair 2018	10/08-Present
◆ Collaborated with other women SAE Detroit Section Board members to create a mentoring outreach group for young women interested in STEM education. Suggested the group start virtually in 2020 and the event was highly attended.	
◆ Led the organization and execution of the Young Automotive Professionals Conference at Chrysler Proving Grounds in 2012 and at GM Proving Grounds in 2016 to promote SAE membership to professionals under 35 and facilitate connections between the OE and professionals.	
CORVETTE LADIES GARAGE SEMINAR PRESENTER – Corvette Birthday Bash, Corvettes at Carlisle	12/10-Present
HIGH PERFORMANCE DRIVING EVENTS PARTICIPANT & CLASSROOM INSTRUCTOR	06/08-Present
◆ Interact with Corvette customers participating in HPDE. Assist with their car concerns, explain racing features included on their car, and promote new GM product. Gain customers for life.	

## HONORS AND AWARDS

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL (Baltimore, MD) MCAULEY AWARD TO AN OUTSTANDING ALUMNA	2020
SAE INTERNATIONAL TOP CONTRIBUTOR CLASS	2019
SAE DETROIT SECTION OUTSTANDING YOUNGER MEMBER	2012
PHALANX HONOR SOCIETY MEMBER	Inducted 02/08
◆ Society founded to recognize Rensselaer students distinguished in the areas of leadership, service, and devotion to the alma mater.	