

# LAURA WONTROP KLAUSER

Detroit, MI ♦ carsandchocolates.com

## 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, expectations management, contract negotiations, and future portfolio planning. Also skilled at customer relations, media, and brand representation.

## CAREER

### GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION, NA Product Development

Sports Car Racing Program Manager (Detroit, MI)

01/21-Present

- ◆ Lead the Sports Car Racing Competition Engineering group at GM that manages the development and support of GM's Sports Car Racing programs including the Corvette Z06 GT3.R (2024 launch) and Cadillac V-Series.R currently racing in IMSA WeatherTech and the World Endurance Championship (WEC) with growth into other GT3 series coming.
- ◆ Responsible for establishing the Sports Car Racing team at General Motors, which grew from one employee in 2021 to 15 employees by 2023.
- ◆ Developed and **sold to leadership** a Sports Car Racing Vision for GM Motorsports Competition Engineering that selects programs to maximize global exposure within budget constraints. Executed the vision by placing the Corvette C8.R in the WEC full season in 2022 and 2023 and developing and launching the Cadillac V-Series.R and Corvette Z06 GT3.R.
- ◆ Create opportunities for tech transfer between racing and production to improve production tools and processes.
- ◆ Represent GM on sanctioning bodies Manufacturer Councils to protect GM's interests and help grow the sport.
- ◆ Cadillac V-Series.R **won all IMSA Championships in 2023 launch year**. Corvette C8.R **won Le Mans and WEC Championship in 2023**.

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

06/16-12/20

- ◆ Cadillac DPi-V.R program **won the Rolex 24 in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020** and claimed **various IMSA championships in 2017-2021**. Also managed the Camaro GT4.R program 2018-2022 and the ATS-V.R program 2016-2017.
- ◆ Coordinate the design and development of the racecars with constructors and teams. Negotiate and write contracts and ensure teams have what they need to be successful and teams properly represent the brand. **Manage the multi-million dollar budget**.
- ◆ Serve as spokesperson for racing programs participating in interviews and attending customer touchpoint events to promote brand enthusiasm.

Vehicle Noise, Vibration, and Harshness Integration Engineer (Milford, MI)

09/13-06/16

Chassis Suspension Design Release Engineer (Warren, MI)

07/11-09/13

Advanced Engineering Operations Engineer (Warren, MI)

09/10-7/11

Vehicle Definition and Balance Engineer (Warren, MI)

07/08-09/10

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, B.S. **Cum Laude** in Mechanical Engineering

May 2008 – Troy, NY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, M.S. Global Automotive and Manufacturing Engineering

May 2014 – Ann Arbor, MI

## 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.
- ◆ 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 INTERNATIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER

01/24-Present

SAE DETROIT SECTION BOARD (~8000 members) – Section Chair 2018

10/08-12/20

WOMEN IN MOTORSPORT and WOMEN IN MOTORSPORTS NORTH AMERICA BOARDS MEMBER

07/21-Present

## HONORS AND AWARDS

WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

2023

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

RPI PHALANX HONOR SOCIETY MEMBER

Inducted 02/08