



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

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Press Release

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A.J. Scherman of STIHL Inc. Named GACCs' Trainee of the Year

Trainee Honored at the Sixth Annual German American Business Outlook

New York, December 14, 2015 – The German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs) today presented the GACC Award for Trainee of the Year to A.J. Scherman of STIHL Inc. The GACC Trainee Award recognizes outstanding individuals working for German subsidiaries who have demonstrated excellence in their workforce training programs.

A.J. Scherman is currently enrolled in the four-year Mechatronics Technician apprenticeship program at STIHL Inc. in Virginia Beach, VA. STIHL's apprenticeship program is adapted from the German model of vocational training. In this "dual system," trainees split their time between hands-on training and classroom education. Scherman was one of only 4 to 5 applicants out of 300 who were offered a spot in the highly sought-after apprenticeship program. He is currently working on a project in STIHL's Technical Training Center to upgrade and modify their Festo training simulators, which are used by certified Festo instructors for training the apprentices, engineers, mechatronics & maintenance technicians.

The jury's decision was influenced by Scherman's dedication to work full time, attend college classes, while supporting his family and maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Scherman said "Mechatronics is the future of the manufacturing world and the gateway to where I ultimately want to end up – which is being an engineer."

Virginia Beach-based STIHL Inc., one of several manufacturing facilities in the STIHL Group, is the headquarters for their U.S. operations. STIHL Inc. employs over 2,100 people nationwide, with more than 1,900 in Virginia Beach, VA., in a variety of positions from manufacturing, product assembly, manufacturing engineering, sales and marketing, and finance.

The GACC Trainee of the Year Award, sponsored by FESTO and Lufthansa, is part of a presentation of the German American Business Outlook, an annual economic survey conducted by the German American Chamber network in the U.S.

For more about the GACC Award visit www.ahk-usa.com/gabo.

The **German American Chambers of Commerce** (GACCs) in Atlanta, Chicago, and New York and branch offices in Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco work together under the network of AHK USA. With approximately 2,500 members and an extensive national and international business network, the GACCs offer a broad spectrum of activities and services.