

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local Businesses Recognized at National Conference**

Franchisees Receive National Awards at Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops' Conference

(ST. CHARLES, Ill.) – Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops recently recognized multiple franchisees at its “Firing On All Cylinders” national conference held in St. Charles, Ill.

The following Merlin franchisees were honored with the 2016 awards:

- Don Miller, franchisee of Waukegan, Ill., received the “National Sales Leader” award for having the highest sales of all Merlin Shops.
- Chris Schultz, franchisee of Aurora, Ill., received the “2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Sales Performance” award for achieving the second highest sales of all Merlin Shops.
- Mike Decker, franchisee of Kenosha, Wis., received the “Most Improved Performance” award for increasing sales from the previous year by the largest percentage of all Merlin Shops.
- Jason Powell, franchisee of Plainfield North, Ill., received the “Marketing Effectiveness Report” award which quantifies how well a shop implements the Merlin operating system and the use of Merlin’s signature programs.
- Steve Golz, franchisee of Montgomery, Ill., received the “Merlin Pride” award for exhibiting superior levels of image and maintenance performance throughout the year.
- Muffazal Simba, franchisee of Glendale Heights, Ill., received the “Builder” award for accumulating the most training points during the course of one year.
- Tim Williams, franchisee of DeKalb, Ill., was honored with the newly added “Rolling Farther” award for selling the most tire units of all Merlin shops.

The following Merlin franchisees were honored with the 2016 “Top 10 Percent” award for standing within the top 10 percent in sales of all Merlin Shops:

- Tom Walaszek, franchisee of Lockport, Ill.
- Mitesh Patel, franchisee of Elk Grove Village, Ill.
- Jason Powell, franchisee of Plainfield North, Ill.

The following Merlin franchisees were honored with the 2016 “We Care” service award

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which is presented to shops that exemplify outstanding customer service and receives zero customer complaints:

- Chris Schultz, franchisee of Aurora, Ill.
- Luis Olmos, franchisee of Carpentersville, Ill.
- Jeff Strauss, franchisee of Cary, Ill. and Crystal Lake, Ill.
- Jeff McClearn, franchisee of Downers Grove South, Ill.
- Arun Patel, franchisee of Hanover Park, Ill.
- Tom Walaszek, franchisee of Lockport, Ill.
- Steve Golz, franchisee of Montgomery, Ill.
- Mike Geringer, franchisee of St. Charles, Ill.
- Don Miller, franchisee of Waukegan, Ill.

Merlin's 2017 annual business conference was held at the Q Center and focused on operational, marketing and development successes and goals. Sessions concentrated on providing franchisees and managers with education they need to make their business more successful. Merlin also conducted an industry specific vendor trade show to assist franchisees stay current with automotive technology and trends.

"The awarded Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops demonstrate consistency, implementation and leadership. Year after year these shops have all their components well-tuned to fire on all cylinders," said Ray Munoz, Merlin's General Manager. "Merlin's annual business conference recognizes our franchisee's teams that worked hard and fulfilled our commitment to long-term customer relationships and the DRIVE FOR 200,000 MILES."

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. For more information and special offers, please visit [merlins.com](http://merlins.com).

#### **About Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops**

Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops offer a neighborhood approach to automotive service and provides both repair and maintenance services as well as tire replacement and tire services. Merlin's DRIVE FOR 200,000, the industry's most comprehensive and affordable maintenance program, supports vehicle owners thousands of miles beyond the usual manufacturer's maintenance requirements and has positioned Merlin as the leader in vehicle longevity. Founded in 1975, Merlin is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois. In February 2014, Driven Brands acquired Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops. For more information, please visit [www.merlins.com](http://www.merlins.com).

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## **About Driven Brands**

Driven Brands, headquartered in Charlotte, NC, is the parent company of North America's leading automotive aftermarket brands across four distinct verticals: Repair & Maintenance, housing Merlin 200,000 Mile Shops® and Meineke Car Care Centers®; Paint & Collision, housing Maaco®, CARSTAR North America® and Drive N Style®; Distribution, housing 1-800-Radiator & A/C®; and Quick Lube, housing Pro Oil Change®, Econo Lube N' Tune®, Driven Florida Lubes® and Take 5 Oil Change. Driven Brands has more than 2,000 centers across North America, and combined, all businesses generate more than \$2.1 billion in system sales. For more information, visit [www.DrivenBrands.com](http://www.DrivenBrands.com).

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