Powercat Motorsports is a design-build team in the College of Engineering, made up of primarily mechanical engineers. The main goal of the organization is to design, build, test and race a car under the Formula SAE competition rules. The team meets weekly throughout the school year and has a shop located at the KSU Foundation Center. However, its activities will be moving into the new design team suite following completion of Engineering Hall.

The organization competes in two main competitions: FSAE Michigan, at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Michigan, in May; and the FSAE Lincoln held at the Lincoln Airpark in Lincoln, Nebraska, in June. In 2015, the team placed 29th overall, including 22nd in autocross, 24th in skidpad and 25th in design, out of 80 entrants at the Lincoln event.

Team leaders

Kelsey Nelson  President
Kyle Edwards   Ergonomics Team Leader
Zack Kimble   Electronics Team Leader
Greg Hopper   Drivetrain Team Leader
Mike Meng     Engine Team Leader
Mason Smith   Suspension Team Leader
Ben Reedy     Chassis Team Leader
Zac Thiessen  Business Manager
Brett Cook    Aerodynamics Team Leader

Faculty adviser

Kevin Wanklyn, MNE instructor
“The biggest challenge in leading this team — communication. Sometimes it is difficult to get everyone on the same page with an organization of our size. Everyone has unique ideas and we have to bring all of those together to successfully build the car and manage the team.”

— Kelsey Nelson
President
“This experience will be beneficial because of the extensive amount of teamwork involved. The ability to work well with others is very valuable in the workplace and this leadership role has given me the opportunity to do just that.”

— Kelsey Nelson
President

Powercat Motorsports Team