

NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

# GM'S PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT LAGS

*Akerson says company has restored spending in effort to catch up quickly*

CEO Daniel Akerson: 2012-13 are pivotal for GM.

Robin Buckson  
The Detroit News

BY CHRISTINA ROGERS  
The Detroit News

General Motors Co. is about a year behind schedule in new car and truck introductions because it slashed development spending while in bankruptcy, Chairman and CEO Daniel Akerson said Tuesday.

"The facts are, with the bankruptcy, we've lost roughly a year in terms of development," Akerson said, speaking at the Automotive News World Con-

gress, a conference held in conjunction with the North American International Auto Show.

"That's why '12 and '13 are more pivotal for us in the United States."

While acknowledging the impending lull in new products, Akerson said the automaker, which this week unveiled its new Buick Verano compact

and Chevrolet Sonic subcompact, will spend \$7 billion on product research and development this year. That compares to \$5 billion in 2009, the year it filed for bankruptcy.

With its research and development effort regaining momentum, GM plans to expand its lineup of electrified vehicles. The automaker intends to have an electric vehicle in the lineup of each of its

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# The Detroit News

Wednesday, January 12, 2011 Metro Final

## Without aid, DPS may close half of its schools

Class sizes also would swell under proposal filed with the state

BY JENNIFER CHAMBERS  
The Detroit News

Detroit — Detroit Public Schools would close nearly half of its schools in the next two years, and increase high school class sizes to 62 by the following year, under a deficit-reduction plan filed with the state.



Bobb

The plan, part of a monthly update Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb gives the Department of Education, was filed late Monday to provide insight into Bobb's progress in his attempt to slash a \$327 million deficit in the district to zero over the next several years. Under it, the district would slim down from 142 schools now to 72 during 2012-13.

Bobb has said school closures, bigger classes and other measures would be needed if he cannot get help from lawmakers to restructure finances in the state's largest school district.

DPS considered but declined to file for bankruptcy in 2009. In the past year, debt in the district has increased by more than \$100 million, brought on by a mix of revenue declines in property taxes, reduced state aid, declining enrollment and an unplanned staffing surge this past fall.

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# Hoke ushers in new era of football at Michigan



Denis Poroy / Associated Press

Brady Hoke, a former Wolverines defensive assistant who preaches the traditional Michigan tenets of toughness and defense, is leaving San Diego State to lead the U-M program.

Former U-M assistant builds tough defenses, known as strong recruiter

Other names were bigger, other candidates more enticing to fans. Michigan's new football coach is Brady Hoke, and if you're puzzled, that's reasonable.

Hoke doesn't possess the gaudiest record, but when he's introduced today at 1 p.m. by athletic director Dave Brandon, you'll begin to understand why he's here. He's here because he's been here before, he knows the terrain, and he's a good, solid coach

BOB WOJNOWSKI

who preaches defense and unity. Brandon got a "Michigan Man," as predicted, and while Hoke wasn't the most coveted one (that'd be Jim Harbaugh), or the most intriguing one (that'd be Les Miles), he was the one most eager to return and most driven to fit, at a time when Michigan needs stability more than ever.

Hoke, 52, hasn't coached in a major conference and has a 47-50 career record at San Diego State and Ball State, and that will give people pause. Fine. They also should give him a chance.

Brandon announced a national search last week after firing Rich Rodriguez, and all sorts of names surfaced, then disappeared. The search vexed

### Getting to know Brady Hoke

- Age: 52
- Born: Nov. 3, 1958
- Hometown: Kettering, Ohio
- College: Ball State, 1982
- Family: Wife Laura, daughter Kelly
- Coaching career
  - 1983: Grand Valley State, defensive line
  - 1984-86: Western Michigan, defensive line, special teams
  - 1987-88: Toledo, outside line-backers
  - 1989-94: Oregon State, defensive line
  - 1995-2002: Michigan, defensive line
  - 2003-08: Ball State, coach
  - 2009-10: San Diego State, coach

**Dream job:** Hoke's a true-blue Michigan man. **1B**

**Reaction:** Fellow coaches, players applaud hire. **4B, 5B**

and perplexed fans, and suddenly ended Tuesday not far from where it began, back to a familiar place.

Brandon said Hoke was "at the top of the list" and no one else was offered the job, but that may be semantics. Brandon talked to Harbaugh, Miles and others to gauge interest, but it's

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## Audit: State agency put tenants at risk

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Haiti slow to rebuild. **FOCUS, 6A**

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