



Hagerty Education Program Fuels the Future of Automotive Restoration through Apprenticeship

College graduate receives hands-on training from master craftsman

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TACOMA, Wash. (March 23, 2015) – Education pays. That’s the message the Hagerty Education Program at America’s Car Museum (HEP), which saw its first apprenticeship recipient, Ryan Levesque, complete his first six-month training regime with Precision Motor Cars in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Levesque, a Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate, turned to HEP – managed by Tacoma, Washington-based LeMay – America’s Car Museum – to help break into to the car restoration trade. HEP awards scholarships and grants to prepare young adults for careers in automotive restoration and preservation. Levesque’s apprenticeship is part of a program that has awarded more than \$2.75 million since 2005 for automobile and antique boat restoration education and training.

“HEP is vital to the car industry because young people need to be introduced to these types of vehicles,” said Levesque. “It’s the only way the restoration shops, hobbyists and museums will survive and continue to preserve automotive history.”

Levesque apprenticed with Precision Motor Cars (a HEP partner) owner and master craftsman Keith Flickinger, to get more hours under the hood while honing his craft, restoring vehicles from the early 1900s through the 1970s. At the shop, Levesque gained skills in metalwork, upholstery, fabricating parts and mechanical work.

“The program has taken my skill set to a new level,” said Levesque. “Hands-on experience is a key factor in mastering the art of restoration, and working at Keith’s shop definitely offers the environment for learning. He knows an extensive amount of information about old cars. This knowledge needs to be passed down or the trade will be lost.”

“Automotive restoration means the world to me, and it’s my goal to see students like Ryan continue the craft, succeeding personally and professionally,” said Flickinger. “They are the future of keeping the collector car hobby alive.”

With the first apprenticeship complete, Flickinger is extending Levesque’s contract with the shop another six months to continue his path to a career in automotive restoration.

“Keith doesn’t expect me to know everything, nor get it right on the first try. What he looks for is passion, dedication and love for the cars. When I first came to the shop I disassembled a 1940 Graham Sharknose down to the body on the frame. I’ve worked on multiple 1934 Buicks, a 90-series Victoria coupe, a 90-series convertible sedan, a 60-series sedan and a 1960 Armstrong Siddeley Star Sapphire – the last one off the factory line.”



“We’re empowering young people to pursue careers in technical programs throughout the country,” said Diane Fitzgerald, national director of the HEP. “From grants and scholarships to our collaborations with Pennsylvania College of Technology and McPherson College in Kansas, we are helping build a foundation for the next generation of artisans.”

“I want to continue to restore and preserve antique vehicles, whether as a restoration technician or managing a collection,” said Levesque. “I believe the apprenticeship will increase my opportunities in finding a great career.”

Upcoming deadlines for students to apply for scholarship and grant funds are April 15 and September 1. For more information about the HEP, visit hagertyeducationprogram.org.

About the Hagerty Education Program at America’s Car Museum

The Hagerty Education Program at America’s Car Museum (HEP) is a grant-giving program supporting the ***pathway to careers*** for 18-25 year olds. We are at the center of a movement to preserve the skills and knowledge needed to protect our automotive heritage, by funding educational programs, scholarships and paid internships & apprenticeships. Founded in 2005 by Hagerty and formerly known as The Collectors Foundation, HEP supports hands-on, career-based education in communities around the United States and Canada while promoting America’s automotive history and the interests of the collector community. HEP has awarded more than \$2.75 million in scholarships and grants since 2005. **This is the heart of HEP.**

About LeMay – America’s Car Museum (www.lemaymuseum.org)

America’s Car Museum (ACM), named one of *USA Today’s* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and KING 5’s 2014 Best Museum in Western Washington, is an international destination where families and enthusiasts gather to celebrate America’s love affair with the automobile and how it shaped our society. The stunning, four-level, 165,000-sq.-ft. Tacoma, Wash., facility features 12 rotating exhibits, five annual Signature Events and serves as an educational center, hosting students of all ages. For more information on ACM, visit www.lemaymuseum.org.

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