



Summit to Explore Automotive Restoration Curriculum in High Schools

The Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum and the East Valley Institute of Technology look to inspire the next generation of automotive artisans

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TACOMA, Wash. (Apr. 12, 2016) – The Hagerty Education Program at America's Car Museum (HEP) is co-hosting an Arizona Regional Summit Meeting on May 4 at the East Valley Institute of Technology's (EVIT) Mesa, Ariz. campus. The summit will explore how EVIT – an award-winning vocational high school – can support the booming Arizona car restoration industry and help fill the need for young talent at local shops.

According to the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), in 2015, the automotive restoration industry reached \$1.44 billion in product sales alone – an increase of 6 percent from 2014. HEP's Arizona Regional Summit Meeting will bring together industry luminaries including legendary race car driver and HEP ambassador Lyn St. James along with experts, SEMA members, local shop owners, instructors, administrators and students to discuss the expansion of EVIT's curriculum to include restoration programs, which will lead to filling more jobs in the industry.

The summit will explore how trade schools and education programs can ensure growth for the collector car industry by working together to train skilled craftsmen.

“Today, many of our young adults are being guided along an educational path that bypasses trade schools such as the East Valley Institute of Technology,” said HEP National Director Diane Fitzgerald. “Whether it's in a shop at the Scottsdale Airpark or on the lawn at Pebble Beach, we want to show students there are countless opportunities in automotive restoration and hopefully ignite the passion in a select number.”

Ryan Levesque, 26, who recently completed a HEP apprenticeship at Precision Motor Cars in Allentown, Penn., will speak about the impact the program has made in his life. Upon completion of the program, Levesque received help from HEP to secure a job at Kip Motor Company in Dallas, where he works with Restoration Manager Randy Bush to further develop his skills.

“As collector cars grow in rarity, automotive auction houses including Barrett-Jackson, Mecum and Sotheby's are selling vehicles well in excess of one million dollars. One-of-a-kind and completely restored classics are at the top of the trading block and their prospective buyers' lists,” said Fitzgerald. “Last year, the automotive auction industry surpassed \$1.8 billion in collector cars sales nationwide. There are 12 million cars predating 1981 and we believe this represents a good opportunity for industry growth and job creation.”

“If we are to keep the collector car tradition alive, it's going to take a collective effort by all who have a stake in it,” said America's Car Museum CEO David Madeira. “Seeing these students grow into master craftsmen is a goal of the Hagerty Education Program, and is a responsibility that we are dedicated to.”

Since 2005, HEP has awarded nearly \$3 million in program/project grants, scholarships and apprenticeships.

For more information on 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 service-providing and grant-giving program that supports 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 nearly \$3 million in scholarships and grants since 2005. HEP is a program of America's Car Museum, with offices in Tacoma, Wash. and Chicago, Ill.

About LeMay – America's Car Museum (americascarmuseum.org)

America's Car Museum (ACM) is an international destination for families and auto enthusiasts to celebrate America's love affair with the automobile and learn how it shaped our society. Based in Tacoma, Wash., the stunning 165,000-sq.-ft. facility has been recognized as one of *MSN's* 10 Best Automotive Museums worldwide, *USA Today's* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and *KING5's* 2015 Best Museum in Western Washington. ACM serves as an educational center for students of all ages, features 12 rotating exhibits and hosts five annual Signature Events. For more information, visit americascarmuseum.org.

About East Valley Institute of Technology

East Valley Institute of Technology (EVIT) is a public career and technical education school serving approximately 5,000 high school students and adults at two centralized campuses in the East Valley of the Phoenix, Ariz., metropolitan area. Led by a visionary superintendent and passionate faculty, the school's Main Campus in west Mesa includes a state-of-the-art automotive tech facility which can be utilized, adapted and added to for restoration programs. EVIT has been recognized as an A+ School of Excellence by the Arizona Educational Foundation, and is located near the heart of the growing "auto hot spot" of Phoenix and Scottsdale.

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