





COLLECTORS FOUNDATION HELPS STUDENTS SET SAIL

Students looking for a way to turn their passion for wooden boats into a marine-industry career are doing precisely that, thanks to the help of the Collectors Foundation.

Foundation scholarships are awarded at The Landing School of Boatbuilding and Design in Kennebunkport, Maine; the Great Lakes Boatbuilding School in Cedarville, Mich.; and the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding in Port Hadlock, Wash.

The Landing School offers programs in Wooden Boat Building, Wood Composite Boat Building, Yacht Design and Marine Systems. According to Jade Elliott, director of student services, the school attracts a diverse group of students with one thing in common: They love boats and they're serious about turning that love into a career.

"We get high school graduates, college graduates, veterans, international students and sometimes even retirees. And they come from all over the world," Elliott said. "Our mission is to get people trained for a career in the marine industry and to give the marine industry the best possible workforce. The students who come here aren't hobbyists; they're serious about being in the industry."

Considering that the 80 students who graduated from The Landing School in 2009 all scored jobs, the competition for admission is fierce. So the last thing a prospective student wants to do is turn down acceptance due to financial constraints. Many turn to the Collectors Foundation for help.

The Landing School receives a \$10,000 scholarship grant from the Foundation and splits it into five \$2,000 awards. Last year's recipients were Karl Peterson (design), David Snowdon (design), Brian Dahlmann (composite), Charles Kellerman (wood) and Meredith Chessi (wood). This year's scholarship recipients are Jesse Baldwin (design), Keith Albro (design), Andrew Johnson (composite), Christopher Yorston (wood) and Nicholas Knowlton (composite).

"The Collectors Foundation has been incredibly generous," Elliott said. "They like the school and they like what we do."

The Foundation and The Landing School are certainly on the same page when it comes to classic wooden vessels.

"There is obviously a lot to be learned from the tradition of past ship building in the state of Maine," said Barry Acker, the school's president. "What we try to do is maintain that tradition, to learn from it and to apply modern techniques, modern materials and modern technology to building boats."

While The Landing School has been training prospective boat builders, designers and technicians for 30 years, the Great Lakes Boat Building School is looking to grow its thirdyear program. Dave Lesh, the school's executive director, expects 13-16 students to take part in Great Lakes' nine-month introductory program or new second-year career program. That number is up from seven students the first year and eight last year.

This year's wooden boat project is based upon a design provided by Van Dam Custom Boats in Boyne City, Mich. Plans for Van Dam's 30-foot twin-engine Chocolate Chip have been scaled down to a 27-foot, single-engine craft. Among those students who will take part in the program are two \$2,500 scholarship award winners, Michigan residents Chris Eastman and Grant Oliver.

"Having the support of the Collectors Foundation allows students to pursue their passion for wooden boats," Lesh said. "They're very serious about what they're doing. They're here because they want to be here.

"Sometimes the lack of finances stands in the way. So for the Collectors Foundation to come along side them and help them achieve, it's a dream come true for these guys."

2009 3RD QUARTER



THERE'S A REASON THAT VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS OFTEN CALLED "CAREER TECH"

Vocational education is alive and well. It just looks different than it used to. So do the students.

"Back when I went to school, vocational education was a dumping ground for kids who didn't fit in anywhere else," said Ken Hamel, an instructor at Yuba County Career Preparatory Charter School in Marysville, Calif. "But we've seen an increase in students who want to learn something.

"Vocational education is more technical than it used to be. It's more career-oriented than it used to be," added Hamel, whose school receives an annual grant from the Collectors Foundation. "Students have a lot more choices."

Debbie Brown, a career coach and consultant, told the parent-teacher website ConnectwithKids.com there is a lingering misconception that vocational programs are for under-achievers. Such programs - more commonly referred to these days as "career tech" or "vocational tech" - are actually popular among high-achieving students. The U.S. Department of Education confirms as much, reporting that in the past 15 years the focus of vocational education has shifted

from preparing students for entry level jobs in occupations requiring less than a four-year degree to a broader preparation that develops the overall academic, vocational and technical skills of students.

The bottom line: career tech programs are working both for students looking to land a job immediately upon high school graduation and those who want to continue their education. The general public's perception of career tech programs hasn't quite caught up to reality, however.

"In general, in America, people think that you have to go to college and you have to have a regular white-collared job where you don't get your hands dirty," Brown told ConnectwithKids.com. "It is something that is, for certain populations, frowned upon because it is not considered more of a professional job. But those jobs can be very well paying, depending on what you want to do and your skill level."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DIRECTIONS

News from the Executive Director

This issue of the Quarterly Newsletter is really a "catch up" edition – catching you up on some

of the projects, programs and individuals that have received recent grants from the Collectors Foundation. Thank you for your continuing interest and your valuable support as together we find outlets and ways to encourage youth development and build the next generation of collector vehicle and classic boat enthusiasts.

I never cease to be amazed at the number and variety of ways our hobby's interests are being passed on to young people.

Hopefully you, too, will be inspired and encouraged as you read the stories in this edition of Driving the Future.

But it's not enough for you just to read about how the passion is being passed on. If you are able, it is also important for you to consider ways in which you might give back to the hobby by helping young people gain the necessary knowledge and experience to find their place within our ranks. Consider making a financial contribution to support the work of the Collectors Foundation. Get involved with youth in your local community and let your vehicle or vessel be the point of attraction for a relationship. Volunteer to work with an area automobile museum, boat museum or motorcycle museum to create special hands-on education programs of interest to youth.

There is a lot of good going on across the country by "gearheads" and their friends. The Collectors Foundation was formed to support many of these initiatives – and you can help. Feel free to contact me with your questions, ideas and offers. Together we can do even more wonderful things for young people and ourselves.

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Career Tech continued...

So where does the Collectors Foundation come in? Thanks in part to the Foundation's efforts, some high school auto programs now include an emphasis on classic car restoration and engine repair. And the timing couldn't be better. The President's Council of Economic Advisors reports that the jobs of tomorrow are in nursing, construction, plumbing and auto mechanics.

"Certainly the restoration side of it has grown," said Erik Damgaard, assistant principal at Berks Career and Technology Center in Leesport, Pa. "With the help of the Collectors Foundation, our students are getting opportunities in customization and restoration that they might not have had before. For instance, kids nowadays aren't used to working on cars with a carburetor. But they're getting a taste of older vehicles.

"Using today's technology, they're learning how to research parts, where to find them, how to install them, even how to fabricate them. The Collectors Foundation has been the conduit to that."

Hamel, in his eighth year as an instructor at

Yuba County Career Prep, said Yuba has 500 total students, and they are required to take academic courses that California stipulates for high school graduation. The automotive program currently has 24 students, but Hamel expects that number to double with the addition of another auto class.

"Every year we change our curriculum a little," he said. "We're never satisfied. The students love it – we're jam packed."

Hamel said the Collectors Foundation has been "a huge help," and Yuba has used the grants provided by the Foundation to purchase welders and an air compressor system. In addition, Collectors Foundation Board member Raffi Minasian has personally visited the school and "has been a great partner, helping and guiding us with our vision."

Hamel said local auto shops have also joined in, offering students apprenticeship opportunities. "The restoration and hot rod stuff that we do is kind of like icing on the cake."

Hamel admits that many of Yuba's auto students enter the program with no interest in going on to college, but "our goal is to instill in them the idea that learning is a lifelong experience — to get them out of the mindset that school ends after 12th grade. We want them to leave here knowing the importance of character and becoming productive members of society."

Berks Career and Tech Center has a larger auto program than Yuba, but the schools have a similar goal: encourage students to reach higher. Drawing from 16 districts in Berks County, Penn., BCTC has an East campus and a West campus, with approximately 40 students enrolled in morning courses and 40 in afternoon classes.

The East campus is customizing a 1937 Chevy Roadster pickup with a 401 cubic inch Buick "Nail Head" engine. The West campus is restoring a '66 Mustang. Other programs at the school have offered their expertise.

"We have mechanical, auto collision, restoration and paint... The grandfather of one of



Berks Career and Technology Center's hot rod chassis.

our students came in and taught a seminar on upholstery... Our cabinet makers made wood panels for the box of the roadster... Our photo imaging program has helped market it," said Berks' Damgaard. "So we incorporate a lot of programs – just like in the real world.

"Our ultimate goal is to show the (finished) vehicle and promote the school, the program and the partnership we have with the Collectors Foundation," he said. "We'll sell the cars when we're finished with them, so we hope to make enough profit to gain sustainability for the program and to start a scholarship program so

our students can pursue continued education in vehicle restoration."

Damgaard said the school could not have flourished without the help of the Foundation. He said the nonprofit's philanthropic efforts will continue to have a ripple effect on the collector car hobby.

"The Collectors Foundation, through its focus on restoration, gives students an opportunity to gain skills they might not have otherwise," Damgaard said. "Now there's an interest in restoration as a career goal.

"Vocational education won't ever go away," he added. "Some programs may evolve, but we'll always need mechanics and plumbers and masons and carpenters."

Yuba's Hamel agreed.

"Vocational tech is no longer a place to land," he said, "it's a place to learn."



FUTURE DESIGNERS LOOK TO THE PAST

Inspiration. Automotive design students find it in classic cars. They also find it in the support they receive from the Collectors Foundation.

"Only through (the Collectors Foundation was) I able to put all my effort, passion and talent towards furthering my education," scholarship recipient Alex Ksoll wrote in a letter to CF Executive Director Bob Knechel. "I am doing what I felt I was born to do..."

Ksoll, who graduated with honors from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., in August, dreamed of studying at the Art Center for years, but he eventually found himself working as an industrial designer. Not wanting his passion for automotive design to die, he took a chance and applied to the Art Center. He was accepted immediately and allowed to start at third-term level. "Unfortunately, there was no way to afford such a great education," he wrote.

The school, whose previous Collectors Foundation scholarship recipient (Rich Overcash) had just graduated, awarded the Foundation's \$10,000 annual grant to Ksoll.

Design studios at College for Creative Studies.

"I am able to do what I love so much, and because of your help I am able to push my talent as far as I can in order to better my chances in this highly competitive field of car design," wrote Ksoll, who went on to intern at Volkswagen in Germany and has received multiple offers for employment.

"So many wonderfully talented individuals come into our program. It's always a challenge to get funding for students who can't do it on their own," said Jay Sanders, director of the Art Center's Transportation Design program, which includes 250 of the school's 1,600 students. "So it's wonderful to have the Collectors Foundation's support. They see the need and the talent and they fulfill those dreams."

Jason Beer and Adam Hubers, Collectors Foundation scholarship recipients who attend the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, know the feeling.

Beer, a transportation design student, grew up in a family that "collects and appreciates classic vehicles." He hopes "the vehicles I design are able to provoke the emotion and passion in others that you (at the Collectors Foundation) feel."

Hubers, an auto design student, said he is "very grateful for the support for students like me who need all the help they can get while going through school to make their dreams come true. Scholarships like yours only encourage me more to continue to be the best that I can be."

It's no coincidence that the school that Beer and Hubers attend is located in the Motor City. The College for Creative Studies dates back to the

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early days of the automobile, although it didn't officially become a college until 1962. It offers 11 majors and is expanding to a new building on a separate campus.

Shannon McPartlon, assistant director of corporate and foundation relations, said the school's automotive program and the Collec-

tors Foundation have a common interest in the history of the automobile. Larry Erickson, chair of the Paul and Helen Farago Transportation Design Department, agrees.

"Passion, innovation, craftsmanship – the qualities that make automobiles desirable are the same qualities that we strive to foster in our students and their designs," Erickson said. "Historical vehicles, and what made them great in the world that they were developed, provide important lessons in innovation and designing successful products."

The Art Center's Sanders said it's no surprise that the finest vehicles of that past are revered by today's designers.

"Good design is good design, regardless of whether it was created in the '30s, '40s or 2010," he said. "Designers draw inspiration wherever they can find it."

And the Collectors Foundation, he said, helps fuel the passion by supporting designers who are just starting out.

"Alex (Ksoll), for one, now has a bright future that he would not have had without the Foundation's support," Sanders said. "The Collectors Foundation influences future great designs that will one day be looked upon as icons."