



Metropolitan Community College
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

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MCC receives Hubbard foundation gift to fund hot rod program

OMAHA, Neb. — A new hot rod fund at the Metropolitan Community College Foundation will provide students with hands-on learning opportunities in custom car fabrication, thanks to a generous gift from the Theodore F. and Claire M. Hubbard Family Foundation.

The Hubbard Hot Rod Project Fund will offer automotive students the opportunity to build a car from scratch. The Redneck Street Rod 1933 Ford car kit, personally donated by Ted Hubbard, includes new parts to build a customized, fully functional and modern vehicle. Together with funds from the Hubbard foundation, the hot rod project will allow MCC to expand its automotive programs with new curriculum that exposes students to the custom auto industry.

MCC's automotive technology and automotive collision technology programs will coordinate joint classes to build the hot rod. The first of their kind in MCC history, the classes will offer students the opportunity to experience the challenges and rewards of building a custom car while exploring high-wage career pathways in custom car fabrication, custom painting and specialty car repair. Students will also hone their skills in crafting the modern mechanical and electrical systems found in cars today. Proceeds from the auction of the completed vehicle will fund future hot rod custom build projects.

Hubbard's interest in hot rods inspired the donation. "I wanted students to put the car kit to good use, and I wanted to give the kit to someone who would get something out of it," Hubbard said. "It will be fun to see the project progress from empty car and chassis to finished vehicle."

MCC President Randy Schmailzl noted the significance of the gift for the automotive programs.

"We are very excited to bring this new project to students through the generosity of the Hubbard foundation," Schmailzl said. "Bringing hands-on training to the classroom is what community colleges do best. This is yet another opportunity to provide education that sets us apart from other institutions."

Faculty members anticipate leading a hot rod class this summer for a select group of students. The unfinished car kit will be on display March 28–30 at the World of Wheels event held at the CenturyLink Center Omaha. Organizers plan to debut the completed hot rod at a future World of Wheels event.

“We are grateful to Ted and the Hubbard family for their generous investment in today’s students and tomorrow’s workforce,” said Jackie Almquist, MCC director of development.

About the MCC Foundation

The MCC Foundation was established in 1977 as a separate, not-for-profit, IRS-approved 501(c)(3) corporation with the express purpose of advancing the work of MCC. The Foundation advances the Metropolitan Community College mission by creating community awareness, building and nurturing meaningful relationships, and connecting community partners with giving opportunities that fulfill their philanthropic objectives. For more information, visit mccneb.edu/foundation.

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Metropolitan Community College, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, is a comprehensive, public community college that offers affordable and quality education to all residents of Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. Founded in 1974, MCC has the largest enrollment out of six community colleges in Nebraska and is the second largest postsecondary institution in the state. MCC serves more than 40,000 students annually.