

What is McPherson College?

- **Location** The College is located in the city of McPherson, one hour north of Wichita, Kan., on Interstate 135.
- **Enrollment** About 600 full time students. About 100 major in automotive restoration.
- **Mission statement** “McPherson College is a vibrant community of persons from diverse faiths and cultural backgrounds committed to its mission: To develop whole persons through scholarship, participation and service.”
- **History** The college was chartered in 1887 by leaders in the Church of the Brethren – a Christian denomination founded in Germany in 1708 committed to simplicity, non-violence and social justice.

Automotive Restoration

- **Unique** McPherson College is the only accredited four-year college offering a bachelor’s degree in automotive restoration.
- **Beginnings** The program was founded in August 1976 after a \$1.5 million donation of capital and project cars to the college by Gaines H. “Smokey” Billue.
- **Jay Leno** The host of The Tonight Show has been a supporter of the program since 1997, and has established two scholarships for restoration students: the Fred J. Duesenberg Scholarship and a scholarship in partnership with “Popular Mechanics.”
- **Partners** Other well-known sponsors of McPherson College include: Collectors Foundation, Mercedes-Benz USA, The Duesenberg Family, Meguiar’s Car Care, The Pebble Beach Company Foundation, Darryl Starbird and Rolls Royce Foundation, among others.
- **Majors** The program offers six majors within the program: historic automotive technology, automotive restoration management, automotive communications, automotive restoration design technology, automotive restoration technology, motorcycle restoration technology.
- **Summer Institute** McPherson College automotive restoration professors help hobbyists and professionals keep their skills sharp at the Automotive Restoration Institute, hosted every summer since 2001.
- **Generating excitement** A special Ford Model T owned by the college is regularly assembled by a team of students in less than 10 minutes to help advocate for the program. Their record is 7:04.

Entrepreneurship

- Starting in September 2010, MC launched “Freedom to Jump”, an initiative to incorporate the mindset of entrepreneurship across the curriculum and student life. Automotive restoration students have been heavily involved, especially in the college’s micro-grant Horizon Fund to students with great ideas. Restoration students comprised one third of all grant recipients.

Learn more: 1-800-365-7402; www.mcpherson.edu; or Adam Pracht, coordinator of development communications, 620-242-0425, prachta@mcpherson.edu.