



## Funding to benefit CCCC auto restoration program

**BY R.V. HIGHT**  
CENTRAL CAROLINA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Foundation has received funding from the RPM Foundation to support the restoration of a 1940 Ford by the college's Automotive Restoration Technology program.

The grant allows the college to purchase the supplies needed to turn this 1940 Ford into a show-worthy vehicle that will be used for student instruction for years to come.

"We were thrilled to receive the 1940 Ford project grant from RPM Foundation," said Kiel Rhodes, Automotive Restoration instructor at the college.

"A grant like the one received enables students to see and participate in completing a real world project. Support for these learning projects helps students acquire hands-on skills and helps give them the confidence needed



Submitted photo

**Justin Arace and Jeff Chandler spray primer on this 1940 Ford, which is being restored by the Central Carolina Community College Automotive Restoration Technology program with funding from the RPM Foundation.**

to be a successful restoration technician," Rhodes said.

"The RPM Foundation is proud to support great programs like Central Carolina Community College's restoration school," said Nick Ellis,

RPM Foundation executive director.

"It all comes full circle here — Creative Workshop, one of the shops in our network, referred the donor of the '40 Ford project, RPM assisted

the school project with grant funding, and when the students learning on this project eventually enter the workforce, the industry is strengthened. To an organization like ours that exists to preserve skills and promote careers, it's a perfect situation," Ellis said.

The 1940 Ford was donated and the project started in January 2020.

"The '40 Ford is a customized vehicle, so when finished would be considered more of a street rod than an original restoration," said Rhodes. "The vehicle needed sheet metal work, body work, as well as paint work and upholstery. There were also some mechanical and wiring issues that needed correcting. It will then need to be completely reassembled. It has been a great teaching project."

The goal is to have the vehicle project completed by November.

The Automotive Restoration

Technology program takes pride in the opportunity to instruct the next generation of automotive restoration enthusiasts. The program provides hands-on instruction in a wide range of unique restoration skills such as metal/panel forming, welding, wood working, upholstery, body work, engines, electrical, painting and restoration research.

The program offers participants the option of earning a diploma or certificate.

To learn more about the Automotive Restoration Technology program, visit [www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/automotiverestoration](http://www.cccc.edu/curriculum/majors/automotiverestoration).

"The CCCC Foundation is grateful for the generous support from the RPM Foundation," said Dr. Emily C. Hare, the foundation's executive director. "Thanks to this RPM grant, our Automotive Restoration Technician students will receive valuable hands-on training in becoming skilled craftsmen."