

What are they doing now?

Former Kentucky Tech automotive technology student is enjoying life and making a good living



Thirty-year-old David Fultz learned a lot about life in Larry Fetters' automotive technology class at Kentucky Tech-Mason County. He also spent time learning the technical skills he still uses today. Fultz is now married, works as the owner and operator of Allmark Sales (www.allmarksales.com), promotes and participates in demolition derby events; races in motor sports events including mud and dirt, and participates in tractor pulls. While success comes in many packages, for David Fultz it means doing all the things he enjoys and making a decent living too.

"If it wasn't for my wife, I wouldn't be where I am today," says Fultz. Be that as it may, Fetters' style of teaching also had a positive influence on his growth and development. To this day, they are great friends and benefit from a mutual admiration of each other's drive and skill. By the way, they also race competitively against each other. "I'm still taking him to school occasionally," says Fetters.

During his junior and senior years, Fultz was enrolled in Fetters' class. "I thought automotive technology would be an interesting class. I was trying to build on the knowledge I already had because I had worked since 13 in my cousin's shop (Field's Auto Service)."

No stranger to hard work, Fultz had three jobs during high school. He worked at McDonalds, on the family farm and for his cousin. Work was 7 days a week. So, there wasn't time to participate in some of the activities that other students do during their high school years. However, over time, Fultz has been able to pretty much make up for what he missed in high school.



Robin and David Fultz

As he began digging into his automotive technology class, Fultz started looking at the material side of life. "I looked at Mr. Fetzers and thought, Wow, he has a Chevelle; Wow, he has a new 4 wheel drive pick-up truck; Wow, he has a big block 454 Chevrolet. So, initially I wanted what he had. That was motivation for me."

Fetzers has worked in industry, on the side and as an instructor in the classroom. He has made an impact on literally hundreds of students. He believes in the value of career and technical education because he has seen it work. Fetzers also prides himself on being able to reach his students during the time he has them in class.



Fetzers:

"My philosophy of teaching is this. It's my job to provide the knowledge, teach the skills and help students gain confidence so they can do what is inside of them. Then, it's up to them.

"When a student enters my classroom, I find out two things. First, is this for me? Or, this is not what I want.

"I teach automotive technology, but most of all I try to instill in students that they are what they want to be. I work hard to build a road map so that they can see where they are and where they are going."



Fetters' success in the classroom is partially because he has been able to teach his students the skills they need for a real job, as well as life lessons that can be applied in the real world.

According to Fultz, it was real cool attending class in Fetters' "garage" because "there was always a toy to work on."

"David was able to take the subject matter and apply it to the real world," says Fetters. "He has exceeded what most kids do at his age. He worked hard and didn't roll over easy. But more importantly, David never let anything get in the way of him reaching a goal. He went over the road blocks."

"I wish I had listened more. I tell him this all the time," said Fultz. "Knowing how to do something is one thing. Knowing how to do it right is another thing. I learned to do it right in Mr. Fetters' class."

"There are shortcuts in anything, but not in my class," says Fetters.



Shop signs



Fetters and Fultz with his Chevrolet SS Impala.

When Fultz graduated from high school in 1997, he began working full time on a farm and made “great money;” however, he didn't have any free time to do anything with all of the money he earned. In July 1998, he decided to go to school and enrolled in

the diesel technology program at Rowan Technical College. There he earned an associate's degree. While in school, he began working at AutoZone as a co-op.

“Just like everything else in my life, I started at the bottom and worked my way up to become the store manager,” said Fultz.

After 8 years at AutoZone, Fultz resigned to venture into business for himself. He and his wife bought Allmark Sales in 2007. It is a trophy, awards, promotional items, truck accessories and auto restoration products business. It has flourished.

Robin and David with HER 1984 Chevrolet custom built K20 Truck



All in all, Fultz has been able to take the skills he learned in Larry Fetzers' automotive technology class and apply them to almost every aspect of his life. He and Robin, a special education teacher at Taylor Elementary in Bracken County, have been married for 4 years. They live in Brooksville in their own home, own their own business and go to races on Saturday nights and car shows on Sundays. To them, it's a great life. To Fetzers, it's another successful outcome for one of the students he previously had in class.

Fetters with one of his four restored Chevelle's



Larry Fetters has been an automotive technology instructor at Kentucky Tech-Mason County since 1990. He earned an associate degree from Morehead State University in 1994. His program is ASE master certified and he is ASE master certified. In 2002, he won the KY Tech Outstanding Program of the Year award.

To him, one of the most important accomplishments is the fact that he has been nominated and accepted three times for the prestigious Who's Who Among America's

Teachers. Only five percent of America's teachers are nominated for this award and only two percent are nominated more than once.

And, this year, Fetters is one of four Kentucky Tech- Mason County instructors who volunteered to coordinate the Toys for Tots Drive for a seven-county area. The other instructors include David Collins, electrical technology; Jason Calvert, auto body repair; and Charles "Augie" Germann, welding.

Both the SkillsUSA and HOSA student organizations are involved with the toy drive as part of their community service projects. As of this writing, 750 kids have already registered for toys. Fetters believes that there may be up to 1,000 kids who will register by Christmas. He also believes in the goodness of people and has great confidence that they will be able to provide Christmas gifts for all who are in need.

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