



at Macomb

*News for and about Macomb Community College's alumni and friends*

# Hot rods bring technology to life

Widgets are all fine and good when it comes to computer toolbars and hypothetical manufacturing operations, but Gary Walters, of Macomb's applied technology advanced processes faculty, wanted his students to work on something that would make both their hearts and minds race.

And what he came up with was 1923 Ford T-bucket hot rod fueled by 85 percent ethanol gas, a renewable agricultural resource that is a "green" substitute for fossil fuel.

"I wanted students to become more engaged, because they need more than what the classroom has to offer," explains Walters of what he refers to as the Green T project. "We had to build something that was real, and it had to be cool and exciting."

The Green T is now finished, but the project is far from over. What was a volunteer effort has grown into a four-credit capstone class, with 16 students and six faculty from seven disciplines—as well as a recent Macomb graduate now attending Lawrence Technological University—working on the Green T's successor: a 1927, battery-operated, Ford T-bucket.

"This," notes Walters, "is more than just a car."



Gary Walters (third from left) of Macomb's applied technology advanced processes faculty with the Green T, powered by 85 percent ethanol and built by Macomb students, which he plans to display at cruise events this summer. Next up is a battery electric vehicle based on the same body design, which 16 students, including, from left to right: Chris Kendzier, Eric Schulte and Josh Cole, are building during the winter and spring/summer semesters.