

I would like to thank the Studebaker National Foundation for choosing me as the recipient of this scholarship. I am a 3rd generation Studebaker enthusiast, with my mom owning two Studebakers, and my grandpa being Jon Myer of Myer's Studebaker Parts. Growing up, my sister and I spent a lot of time going to car shows and cruises in my mom's 1960 Studebaker Lark Convertible, often getting picked up from school in it.

At the time I didn't know much about my mom's other Studebaker, a 1964 Studebaker Avanti, other than it had been sitting in a bag for most of my life. In April of 2019, I convinced my parents to pull the Avanti out of the bag to try and get it running. When we pulled it out, the interior was covered in mold and the rest of the car was in an equally sad state. In the following weeks, I started pulling all of the interior apart and cleaning it to see what I could and couldn't save. After removing a few mouse nests and a lot of mold, I finally had it clean enough that the car was safe to work on.

With the car clean, I ended up pulling the gas tank to be cleaned and sealed, removing the leaking power steering control valve and damper to be rebuilt, putting a Turner brake kit on the front to replace the stuck calipers, and rebuilding the brake master cylinder. With everything put back together, it ran well enough to drive out of the garage and be washed but still needed a lot of work to be roadworthy. At this point, I had set a goal to have the car roadworthy enough to drive to school at least one day during my senior year. The next project, however, was rewiring all of the engine bay wires, which were dried out and cracking. As I tore into the harness, I started to think getting it done in time was going to be impossible, but I pushed through and started cutting wires and replacing them. In April of 2022, with about a month of high school left, I finished replacing wires, temporarily got everything hooked back up for a test, and everything worked! After another week of wrapping the harness and finalizing some interior work, I was able to drive it to school every day for the last full week of my senior year.

In the meantime, for Christmas of 2019, I got a 3D printer with the intention of learning how to design and 3D print my own parts. I quickly figured out the CAD software, and started printing small parts of my own. When my grandpa saw what I was doing with it, he gave me some hard to find Studebaker parts such as dash knobs and shift knobs to try printing. I was able to replicate the design relatively easily in the CAD software and they turned out pretty good and fit just as well as the original parts. It was during this project that I realized how much I liked the challenges associated with designing and printing/making parts.

I just started school at Central Ohio Technical College for my Associate's Degree in Engineering Technology. I decided on engineering technology because compared to an engineering degree, where you mostly design stuff, engineering technicians design the parts and work with the machines to make the parts. I prefer the more hands-on aspect of engineering technology. My future plans include opening a machine shop to make factory replacement and aftermarket parts for cars whilst hopefully reviving more old cars.