

Logan Luke (2019 scholarship recipient)  
his autobiography, with permission:

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My name is Logan Xander Tsugio Luke. I am proudly named after my great grandfather Tsugio Ito and my uncle Ryan Tsugio Luke. I am a 6th generation Japanese American living in Torrance California. I've lived my entire life in a single parent household raised by my mother who is Japanese. Because of this I've been immersed in the Japanese culture since birth. From receiving a kimono for my first birthday, learning to cook Japanese foods, watching Japanese television shows, hanging a carp on Boy's Day, eating ozoni and displaying kagami-mochi and kadomatsu on New Years, honoring my ancestors at obon, to attending Buddhist funerals, there is no doubt that I identify as Japanese. Hands down, my most memorable experience was a trip I took with my mother to Japan last summer visiting car museums and factories.

My biggest passion in life is my love of classic Japanese cars. As far back as I can remember I've been interested in anything with a engine and four wheels I pursued my interest by attending the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) where I earned certifications in Automotive Technology (Engine Technician and Front End Technician) and Electrical (Electrical Helper). In my sophomore year I bought and completely rebuilt my dream car, a 1986 Toyota MR2 which I drive daily. I went on to buy, rebuild and sell for profit a 1979 Honda Civic. SCROC helped me to gain the knowledge, experience and confidence needed to land my first job at a well known and respected automotive restoration shop. I currently work as a technician retro fitting classic cars.

Another way in which I've been able to use my knowledge of cars and turn into a source of income was by starting an online commerce business. Although I had no retail experience, I sought out a niche and began small by specializing in buying and selling rare and vintage car magazines, owners and service manuals. As I grew more familiar with market demands and advertising techniques, I invested the money I earned in car parts and accessories. I believe I owe a great deal of my success to my networking skills. I'm not afraid to approach people that I feel could be potential suppliers or may be interested in the products I sell. I also take advantage of the internet and social media to promote my business and locate customers worldwide and attend weekly car meets.

I will be taking the next step of turning my interest in cars into a career by attending California State University Fullerton majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Success in Project Lead the Way courses and at SCROC served to reinforce my career path decision. My mother, a mechanical engineer, has surrounded me with people in the profession and has exposed me to the many aspects of the field. I am excited to start this next chapter of my life.