

GM Donates \$100,000 to Women's Group

The General Motors Foundation is granting \$100,000 to Leadership America, the longest-running national women's development program of its kind in the U.S.

The organization of established women leaders offers unique learning environments, as well as professional and personal development opportunities for its more than 2,200 graduate members.

Maria Mainville, the foundation's communications manager, said the GM Foundation grant will help fund Leadership America's research to explore trends that impact women across the country and shape today's global business environment, as well as engage new members through interactive learning programs.

In addition to the grant, GM Foundation President Vivian Pickard will be the keynote speaker for Leadership America 2013, the organization's annual conference that will be held in Detroit Sept. 22-24.

The Detroit session concludes the yearlong series focusing on the theme, "Surveying the Land-

scape, Shaping the Future."

"The GM Foundation shares a common goal with Leadership America in that we both strive to empower the leaders of tomorrow," said Pickard. "This conference will unite a diverse pool of stakeholders to share best practices and inspire change in Detroit communities and those across the country."

The Leadership America conference will examine collaborative solutions, including private and public partnerships that are making a difference in Detroit and cities across the U.S., Mainville said. The agenda will emphasize the growing influence and impact of women and men who are exercising bold leadership and making an economic difference.

Also participating is Chris Oster, GM's global director, Change

Management and Organization Development, who will moderate a panel discussion featuring the following GM leaders:

- Mary Barra – executive vice president, Global Product Development & Global Purchasing & Supply Chain;
- Alicia Boler-Davis – senior vice president, Global Quality & Customer Experience;
- Grace Lieblein – vice president, Global Purchasing & Supply Chain;
- Mary Chan – vice president, Global Connected Consumer.

Attendees will also participate in a tour of GM's Detroit-Hamtramck Assembly operations.

Plant Manager Doneen McDowell, a member of the current Leadership America class, will provide an overview of the plant's history and operations, Mainville said.

Buyers Beware! Flood-Damaged Cars Being Sold As 'Clean' Vehicles

Hundreds of thousands of flooded cars have washed up on the shores of every state in the country.

According to new research from Carfax, more than 212,000 cars that were branded as being flood-damaged by a state Department of Motor Vehicles are on U.S. roads right now.

"Our research proves that flood-damaged cars are everywhere," said Larry Gamache, communications director at Carfax.

"It's big business for professional con men to quickly clean up and resell these cars miles from where the flooding occurred.

"Consumers need to look out for flooded cars no matter where they live. They're a serious danger to anyone who unknowingly buys one."

Nearly two-thirds of these flood-damaged cars are on the road in 10 states – Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Louisiana, Illinois, New York, Florida, Mississippi and Virginia. However, as the Carfax research shows, con artists are moving flood cars to any state where unknowing consumers will buy them.

Historically, about half of the cars damaged by floods get resold, some to unsuspecting buyers, Gamache said.

He pointed out that floodwater – especially salt water like from Superstorm Sandy – rots and corrodes vehicles from the inside out.

Carfax recently recovered a Hurricane Sandy flood car to analyze the extensive internal water damage as well as demonstrate how easily cars can be made to appear safe and reliable on the outside.

"Flood cars are a volatile mixture of water, metal and electricity," Gamache said.

"Once a car is ravaged by water, the mechanical, electrical or safety systems can fail at any time.

"There's also the health risk, as mold and bacteria permeate the vents and soft parts of the interior.

"Know what you're putting you and your family into before laying down your hard-earned money.

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