

Kenneth Karbon

Valley Forge High School

Class of 1984

Biography

Kenneth Karbon is Engineering Group Manager in the Aerodynamics department at General Motors Company. He is responsible for the development of aerodynamics, cooling airflow, and acoustics of GM's cars and trucks. Ken has been with General Motors for 22 years, specializing in the field of Computer Aided Engineering (CAE). Through his work on scores of automobile designs, he created and implemented new simulation techniques to enhance vehicle performance and speed up engineering time.

Most recently, Ken helped deliver the innovative Chevrolet Volt from concept to reality. The Volt is an electric vehicle with extended range capability and is currently ranked as the most fuel-efficient car to utilize a combination of battery and gasoline technology. It is the first 100% electricity-powered vehicle to win Car of the Year honors.

Ken's efforts on the Volt led to this outstanding performance. Using state-of-the-art computer simulations, he designed the airflow characteristics of the car to reduce wind resistance and cool the propulsion system. These aero improvements amounted to a 20% increase towards the Volt's impressive 93 MPG rating. Ken's work on the Volt has been seen in marketing events, trade journals, and technical papers.

Ken earned a BS Mechanical Engineering, cum laude from the Ohio State University in 1989. In 1994, he was awarded a General Motors Fellowship and obtained a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan. He holds two patents and authored many publications in the fields of aerodynamics, wind noise, and automotive design. He is active with the Society of Automotive Engineers and the United States Council for Automotive Research.

Ken and his wife Kristen reside in Rochester Hills, MI with their two boys, Thomas and Charles.

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