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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY'S WESTLAKE WINS 2007 TEKNE AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN TEACHING

Tekne Awards Highlight the Best in Minnesota Technology and Innovation

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Nov. 2, 2007 – The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), in partnership with LifeScience Alley and Minnesota Technology, Inc. (MTI), honored Minnesota's foremost technology innovators with the 2007 Tekne Awards last night at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Tekne Awards recognize the companies and individuals who have shown superior leadership, development, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota. Among the winners was Mark Westlake, physics teacher at Saint Thomas Academy, in the Innovation in Teaching category.

"The Tekne Awards honor companies that have realized the advantages of applying innovation to technological development here in Minnesota," said Kate Rubin, president, MHTA. "We're pleased to have the ability to recognize this year's recipients for their proven leadership and dedication to technological development, not only here at home, but around the globe."

New to the Tekne Awards this year, the Innovation in Teaching Award recognizes innovative classroom use of technology in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. Westlake was chosen for his leadership of the Academy's "Experimental Vehicle Team" comprised of 15 young scientific minds that design, build and compete in national engineering contests. The team has won eight national championships, set national records and has been featured in *Popular Mechanics*.

The EVT recently received a \$10,000 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant to support the development of its current project, a street-legal, electric motorcycle that will provide greater crash protection than today's motorcycles. The vehicle will be able to travel 40+ miles before needing to be recharged by an on-board, 110-volt charger. The team anticipates completing the vehicle and road tests in April 2008, and then traveling to the 2008 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Odyssey in Massachusetts. Saint Thomas Academy was one of 16 high schools in the U.S. awarded an InvenTeam grant. A full press release on the InvenTeams High School Invention Grants is available at:

<http://web.mit.edu/inventeams/inventeam08pr.html>.

Westlake was chosen for the Tekne Award by a panel of judges that selected one recipient from a pool of three finalists in each of the 16 categories that represent many facets of technological innovation in Minnesota. Award categories recognize leaders and technology businesses that are small and growing (with annual revenues under \$50 million) and established (with annual revenues of \$50 million or more). The complete listing of 2007 Tekne Awards categories and recipients is available at www.mhta.org.

About the Tekne Awards

The Minnesota Tekne Awards honor companies, innovations and individuals that positively impact Minnesota's technology-based economy. The Tekne Awards began in

2000, and are presented by the Minnesota High Tech Association in partnership with LifeScience Alley and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

The Tekne Awards attract a “who’s who” of Minnesota business, technology and political leaders. The gala affair draws over 1,000 attendees from across the state and from technology areas ranging from advanced manufacturing to information technology to medical technology to the biological sciences. The technology community comes together on this very special evening to celebrate Minnesota innovation and recognize Tekne Award finalists and recipients - the best and brightest of Minnesota’s diverse tech-based economy.

About Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA)

The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) accelerates the growth, sustainability and global competitiveness of Minnesota's technology-based economy through public policy advocacy, member collaboration and education and community outreach. MHTA is the only membership organization that represents Minnesota’s entire technology-based economy. MHTA members include organizations of every size – involved in virtually every aspect of technology creation, production, application and education in Minnesota. MHTA works in partnership with AeA, which represents Minnesota's technology organizations nationally. Find out more online at www.mhta.org.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, military/leadership, Catholic, college preparatory school committed to preparing young men to succeed in college and in life. Nationally accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), the academy challenges young men to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and emotionally in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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