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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY RECEIVES \$10,000 MIT INVENTEAM GRANT

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Oct. 9, 2007 – Saint Thomas Academy announced today that its Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT) has received a \$10,000 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam grant to support the development of 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.

Saint Thomas Academy was one of 16 high schools in the U.S. awarded an InvenTeam grant by The Lemelson-MIT Program. A panel of judges composed of educators and researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University, representatives from industry, MIT staff and alumni, and former Lemelson-MIT Award winners selected this year's InvenTeams from a national pool of applicants. A full press release on the InvenTeams High School Invention Grants is available at: <http://web.mit.edu/inventeams/inventeam08pr.html>.

The Safer Electric Motorcycle is already in development, with the initial CAD drawings, rolling chassis and electrical systems' diagrams already completed. Students are currently seeking donations and sponsorships from corporations and foundations for various components of the vehicle. The team anticipates completing the vehicle and road tests in April 2008. The project will culminate with a presentation at the 2008 Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Odyssey in Massachusetts.

The Academy's EVT gives students the opportunity to solve real-world, engineering problems. Each year, approximately 15 budding scientists design and build experimental vehicles to compete in national engineering contests. Saint Thomas teams have built a one-person car that gets more than 1,300 mpg, an electric car that travels 50 miles on two car batteries, a solar bike averaging 30 mph, and a street-legal solar car they raced from Texas to California. The teams have won eight National Championships, set numerous national records, and have been featured in *Popular Mechanics* and on *Dragonfly TV*.

The 2007-2008 team is led by Physics Teacher Mark Westlake, Educational Technologist Carole Loufek, and Student Directors J. Moran '08 (Edina) and T. Lenertz '08 (Rosemount). The Academy recently announced that Westlake is a finalist in the Innovative Collaboration and Innovation in Teaching category for the 2007 Tekne Awards, which will be announced on Nov. 1.

About the Lemelson-MIT Program

The Lemelson-MIT Program recognizes outstanding inventors, encourages sustainable new solutions to real-world problems, and enables and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention.

Jerome H. Lemelson, one of the world's most prolific inventors, and his wife Dorothy founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. It is funded by the Lemelson Foundation, a private philanthropy that celebrates and supports inventors and

entrepreneurs in order to strengthen social and economic life. More information on the Lemelson-MIT Program is online at <http://web.mit.edu/invent/>.

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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Members of the 2007-08 STA Experimental Vehicle Team:

J. Moran (12) Student Director
T. Lenertz (12) Student Director
S. Anderson (12) * Visitation
B. Loufek (12) * Visitation
A. Pinkerton (12)
T. Markert (12)
R. Gerten (12)
T. Mealey (11)
J. Nye (11)
O. Rickey (11)
R. Litwin (11)
R. Muellerleile (11)
J. DeMay (11)
B. Lee (11)
B. Fonfara (11)
T. Pelletier (10)
M. Riehm (10)
C. Beckwith (10)
J. Ryan (9)