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**SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY TEACHER ANNOUNCED AS FINALIST  
FOR EIGHTH ANNUAL TEKNE AWARDS**

*MHTA will recognize Minnesota's top technology  
companies and individuals at the November 1 awards ceremony*

**MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., September 20, 2007** – Mark Westlake, a physics teacher at Saint Thomas Academy, was named as a finalist in the Innovative Collaboration and Innovation in Teaching category for the 2007 Tekne Awards, which will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on November 1. The Tekne Awards recognize Minnesota's outstanding technology achievements and leaders.

Mark Westlake has been teaching physics and turning out engineers at Saint Thomas Academy for 18 years. Westlake created the "Experimental Vehicle Team" in an effort to get students outside their textbooks and into real problem-solving activities. Each year, approximately 15 budding scientists design, build, and compete in national engineering contests that have taken them from coast to coast and truly challenged the students. His team has built a one-person car that gets more than 1,300 mpg, an electric car that can go 50 miles on two car batteries, a solar bike that averages 30 mph, and a street-legal solar car that has been raced from Texas to California. The Saint Thomas Academy Experimental Vehicle Team has won eight National Championships, has set numerous national records, and has been featured in *Popular Mechanics* and on *Dragonfly TV*. Although Mr. Westlake will always deflect the praise toward his students, much of the team's success is due to his leadership and his passion to help his students learn.

Presented by the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA) in partnership with LifeScience Alley and Minnesota Technology, Inc., the Tekne Awards annually recognize Minnesota's best and brightest technology users and developers in innovation, development, education, commercialization and management of technology in Minnesota. A list of finalists is available online at [www.tekneawards.org](http://www.tekneawards.org).

"The Tekne Awards have celebrated the growth of Minnesota's technology-based companies for nearly a decade and continue to recognize those who make groundbreaking contributions as technology continues to change and expand," said Kate Rubin, president of MHTA. "With the quantity and quality of award entries increasing significantly again in 2007, this year's award finalists prove that Minnesota is a hotbed for outstanding achievement and innovation in technology."

On November 1, one recipient from a pool of three finalists will be named in 16 categories at the Awards ceremony. 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).

This year's Tekne Awards ceremony will be emceed by Paul Douglas of WCCO-TV.

### **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](http://www.cadets.com).

### **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](http://www.mhta.org).

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