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SAINT THOMAS ACADEMY EXPERIMENTAL VEHICLE TEAM UNVEILS URBAN COMMUTER VEHICLE WITH PORTABLE CHARGING STATION

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn., Aug. 9, 2010 – The bright engineering minds of Saint Thomas Academy’s Experimental Vehicle Team (EVT) have developed a model for transportation of the future: a compact, single-person car powered by batteries charged exclusively by solar energy. The car can travel 80 miles without recharging the batteries, making daily commuting without gasoline a bonafide possibility. The EVT recently tested the vehicle in the [2010 Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge](#), a 900-mile race from Dallas to Golden, Colo.

“The car performed really well in the Solar Car Challenge,” said EVT Advisor Mark Westlake. “The team did such a great job refining the systems in the past few weeks that we didn’t have any major mechanical difficulties during the race. It demonstrates to us that solar-powered vehicles are a viable alternative for urban commuters.”

Applying their knowledge of physics, electrical systems, engines and molds, the students created this forward-thinking, stylish experimental vehicle that departs from the [traditional solar car model](#). The EVT’s concept car includes a detachable, solar-panel trailer, which allows the car to be driven without the hindrances of large solar panels, and costs significantly less than traditional solar cars.

Team members include:

T. Pelletier ’10 (student director)
P. Underwood ’10
T. Grojean ’11
N. Delaram ’11
K. Mealey ’11
T. Burns ’11
M. Michalik ’12
J. FitzPatrick ’12
A. Hulse ’12
D. Sosa ’12
K. Mannuzza ’12

ABOUT THE EVT:

The Experimental Vehicle Team is a co-curricular program that teaches budding engineers real-life problem-solving skills. Past Experimental Vehicle Teams have built a safer electric motorcycle for urban commuting, a one-person car that got more than 1,300 mpg, and an electric car that traveled 50 miles on two car batteries. This is the third time the EVT has

competed in the Winston School Solar Car Challenge. The teams have won eight National Championships and set numerous national records.

ABOUT THE RACE:

The 15th Hunt-Winston School Solar Car Challenge is an eight-day, cross-country event that provides high school students a hands-on project-based learning experience building and racing their own roadworthy solar cars.

Recognized by Technology & Learning as one of the top ten education programs in the country, the Solar Challenge’s goal is to motivate students in science, engineering, and technology. The program teaches the importance of developing alternative sources of energy, and helps focus community attention on our environmental responsibility.

Additional perspective on the day-to-day race from Saint Thomas Academy can be found [here](#) and [photos](#) from The Winston School are also available. Click here for [media materials](#) from the Winston School.

About Saint Thomas Academy

Founded in 1885, Saint Thomas Academy is an all-male, college preparatory, Catholic, military/leadership 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, morally and physically in and out of the classroom. For more information, please visit www.cadets.com.

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