



Southwest
Independent School District



NEWS RELEASE

MARCH 21, 2017

CONTACTS: Janice Hernandez, SWISD, jchernandez@swisd.net; 210-902-9022
Melissa Sparks, TMMTX, melissa.sparks@toyota.com; 210-263-4144

Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas and Southwest ISD rev students' engines with launch of electrathon car race

San Antonio – In an effort to promote and excite students about Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas (TMMTX) partnered with Southwest ISD to create the inaugural Alamo City Electrathon (ACE).

“TMMTX is proud to bring an electrathon to our backyard, where our team members live and work. This event is just another way for the schools of the Southside to keep up with the pace of change in technology as they continue to develop the future workforce that every industry needs,” said Mario Lozoya, Director of Government Relations and External Affairs with TMMTX.

The Southwest ISD student team will build the exhibition car for the ACE Race. With seed money from TMMTX, student teams from six other school districts will build and race their single-passenger, electric-powered cars using 73 pounds of lead acid.

“I am extremely excited that Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas and the SWISD are partnering to bring Electrathon to San Antonio and our 6 Southside school districts. Engaging young people early in STEM fields is vital to our region's continued achievements in attracting and growing a highly advanced workforce as well as positioning San Antonio for future economic success,” said Councilmember Rey Saldaña, City Council District 4.

The day of the race on May 19, teams will go through a series of inspections, including electrical, mechanical, driver and dynamic, to ensure their vehicles are safe to compete. The teams race in two one-hour races. The team with the most laps combined from the two races wins. The top three teams will place.

“Creating opportunities to merge *STEM* and *competition* together for our SA students is extremely important,” said Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft, SWISD Superintendent of Schools. “For the past four years, our SW students have traveled to Florida, Dallas and Michigan to compete in battery, solar and Hydrogen car races. In San Antonio, we have all the tenants of creating an alternative energy vehicle competition in our own backyard. The inaugural ACE Car Race is our first step in building a national prowess for STEM, Electrathon Car design and development and also competition. I think this is something we could all stand behind and it will generate a pipeline into the engineering industry. Everything has a beginning and our neighboring ISDs have stepped up to the starting line with Toyota Texas to turn a ripple into a wave,” added Verstuyft.

One goal of the ACE Race is to become a National Sanctioned Electrathon Event with Electrathon America, one of approximately 12 in the nation. The car kit for the following districts, Edgewood, Somerset, Southside, South San, East Central, and Harlandale, will be unveiled during a press conference on:



Southwest
Independent School District



**Wednesday, March 22, 2017
2 to 3 p.m.
TMMTX Visitor and Education Center
17439 Applewhite Road
San Antonio, TX 78264**

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE:TM), creator of the Prius and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is committed to advancing mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands. Over the past 60 years, we've produced more than 30 million cars and trucks in North America, where we operate 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ more than 44,000 people (more than 34,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold almost 2.6 million cars and trucks (2.45 million in the U.S.) in 2016 – and about 85 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 15 years are still on the road today.

Toyota partners with community, civic, academic, and governmental organizations to address our society's most pressing mobility challenges. We share company resources and extensive know-how to support non-profits to help expand their ability to assist more people move more places. For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotanewsroom.com.