



Southwest
Independent School District



NEWS RELEASE

MAY 17, 2017

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Ready, Set, Race! ACE Race Launches San Antonio's First Electric Car Race

San Antonio – With the wave of a flag, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff will kick off the inaugural Alamo City Electrathon (ACE) Race! Student teams from six Southside school districts built their own single-passenger, electric-powered cars from kits donated by Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas (TMMTX). Southwest ISD, a veteran in student-built vehicle races, provided mentorship to the first-time student teams.

"ACE Race exemplifies the practical application of STEM education. The partnership between Toyota and our school districts is a model for our workforce development initiatives," said Judge Wolff.

The race evolved from conversations between San Antonio District 4 City Councilman Rey Saldana and Southwest ISD Superintendent Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft. Student teams from Edgewood, Somerset, Southside, South San, East Central, and Harlandale will race on the San Antonio Speedway located along State Highway 16.

"Being a part of this joint effort between Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas and the different school districts participating in the inaugural Alamo City Electrathon Race is truly a rewarding part of my work as a representative of the southwest part of San Antonio. I commend the work of the students and the team of individuals who help demonstrate the many benefits of a STEM education," said Councilman Saldana.

The ACE Race is the first event of its kind in San Antonio, with the goal of showing students the exciting possibilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Another goal of the ACE Race is to become a National Sanctioned Electrathon Event with Electrathon America, one of approximately 12 in the nation.

"It is extremely important to create hands-on experiences focused around STEM that will excite and expose our students to the many opportunities in front of them," said Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft, Southwest ISD Superintendent of Schools. "Our Southwest ISD students have competed in solar, battery and hydrogen car races for the past four years, in which they have had to travel to Florida, Dallas and Michigan. We wanted to bring an alternative energy vehicle competition into our own backyard for not only our students, but many throughout San Antonio. Our neighboring districts competing in the race have helped build the momentum and the power of the message we are creating. With the strong support of Toyota Texas, the inaugural ACE Race will help continue the pathway of growth for San Antonio into a national prowess for STEM."



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In a collaborative partnership, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas, (TMMTX) Southwest ISD, and the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce are hosting the event. Ronni Isham, Southwest ISD Alum and current TMMTX team member, will also be on hand to show students the possibilities of a future in STEM.

“We strongly believe that students are capable of accomplishing their goals when the right tools are placed within reach. Our Team Member Ronni worked on the very first Southwest ISD electric car team and she is now an engineer at Toyota Texas,” said Mario Lozoya, Director of Government Relations and External Affairs at TMMTX.

Teams will go through a series of inspections to ensure their vehicles are safe to compete before racing in two heats. Teams with the most laps completed after both heats will be awarded first, second and third place. The Southwest ISD student team built an exhibition car.

Friday, May 19, 2017
Opening Ceremonies at 9:30 a.m.
First Race 10 – 11 a.m.
Second Race 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Awards Ceremony 3 p.m.
San Antonio Speedway, 14901 State Highway 16, San Antonio, TX 78477