



Students Making Advancements in Renewable Transportation Technology

EV Challenge Unveils New Name, Logo to Reflect Expansion of Curriculum

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WAKE COUNTY – The nation’s premiere alternative fuel education program is changing its name from the EV Challenge to SMARTT Challenge. SMARTT is an acronym for “Students Making Advancements in Renewable Transportation Technology.” A new logo also has been developed to reflect its expanded focus.

SMARTT Challenge is sponsored by the nonprofit Carolina Electric Vehicle Coalition, Inc. (CEVC), based in Wake County. The CEVC’s mission is to provide quality educational programs related to alternative transportation fuels.

The name change and updated logo reflect the program’s revised curriculum, which has expanded its electric vehicle focus to include additional alternative transportation fuels and technologies, said Jennifer Goodwin Whitley, CEVC executive director. “We’re still focusing on raising awareness about the importance of alternative fuels and transportation technologies,” she said. “We’re just expanding that message and our educational programs to reflect some of the advancements that have been made since my dad started the program more than 12 years ago.”

Whitley's father Ralph Goodwin, who helped to found and launch the program in 1995, died last year. She has assumed the role of the program's executive director and is working to expand its mission and reach.

SMARTT Challenge is unique among alternative fuel education programs because its comprehensive approach and year-long curriculum span nearly all disciplines, including math, science, auto mechanics, physics, engineering, electronics, language arts and more.

The program has both high school and middle school components, with curricula focusing on alternative fuels geared to each age group.

The highlight of the high school program is the design and construction of street-legal electric vehicles that students enter into a national contest held annually in Wake County during a two-day rally called the Final Event, scheduled for 2008 on May 16 at Oak View County Park and May 17 at the McKimmon Center.

Middle school students design and build model solar cars that are also entered into competitions at the Final Event on May 17.

Thousands of students from 10 states (North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, Rhode Island and Florida) have participated in the program over the last 12 years. More than 25 schools from the Southeast have already committed for the 2007-2008 school year.

Schools and sponsors interested in participating in SMARTT Challenge are invited to contact Whitley. For further information, visit www.evchallenge.org.

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