

# LOS ALTOS ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

*BUILDING A CLEANER, MORE FUEL EFFICIENT TOMORROW*

## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Nation's First Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine Vehicle Open House and Conference**

**HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA**—May 8, 2010— With unyielding ambitions and state-of-the-art technology, students of the Los Altos Academy of Engineering (LAAE) have hosted their fifth annual open house in conjunction with a press conference on the nation's first hydrogen internal combustion engine vehicle—HICE (Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine). The press conference discussed the vehicle while the open house displayed the countless other accomplishments of the program.

After the completion of HICE, students were eager to display the one-of-a-kind vehicle utilizing a student-modified engine to burn hydrogen as a fuel. HICE is a redefinition of traditional hydrogen cars as they are generally fuel cell vehicles. The concept behind this contemporary vehicle is similar to that of a gasoline vehicle. Using a four-stroke engine, it is designed to burn hydrogen without the use of gasoline, therefore reducing carbon emissions.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano attended the event in order to show her support in education and green technologies. The Congresswoman commented, "I commend these young men and women for their remarkable achievements. Too often the positive news about our students goes unnoticed and we do not realize how proud we should be. The clean energy research done by these young scientists and engineers is the kind of innovation that will keep our country competitive in the twenty-first century. It is critical that we continue to support science education locally and at the federal level – just look at what our kids can accomplish with the proper support." She also provided contact information to individuals in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and even stated her intentions to put the program before President Obama.

Other historical and eye-widening projects were also displayed. Among them include: Solar Shadow, the only high school solar vehicle that raced across Australia in the World Solar Challenge; Infusion, the first hydrogen fuel cell vehicle built by high school students, which won first place in the Shell Eco-marathon; Speed Racer, one of the first electric cars built by the program; and Project Zeus the school's vehicle for the original DARPA Grand Challenge.

In addition to the various projects they have displayed, students also had a special unveiling of the new website, which they had hinted prior to the event. Despite the already extensive website,

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students continued to strive for a more user-friendly and efficient site. In a design completely rebuilt from scratch, new features include an “at-a-glance” home page, historical timeline, reorganized press section, and blog updates.

President Obama’s State of the Union Address mentioned a need for change in education and a focus on energy research. His focus goes hand in hand with the guiding principles of the academy as it has a twenty-year history producing energy efficient vehicles. In addition, the academy’s students excel in mathematics and science as students work on engineering projects more innovative than those currently offered in the marketplace. The Los Altos Academy of Engineering truly offers the world-class education mentioned by the President, to a group of high school students diverse in backgrounds, ethnicities, and genders, working in a team and project oriented environment.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano has played an integral role in formulating the America COMPETES Act with her Congressional Hispanic Caucus Colleagues. The act increases the nation's investment in research and development (R&D), and in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. It is intended to address two concerns believed to influence U.S. competitiveness: the adequacy of R&D funding to generate sufficient technological progress, and the adequacy of the number of American students proficient in STEM or interested in STEM careers relative to other countries. The Act also focuses on increases STEM education and opportunities in minority and disadvantaged communities. The Congresswoman has been integral in the success of this bill and will continue to fight for this legislation when it is debated in the House of Representatives next week.

The LAAE at Los Altos High School is a joint program between the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District and La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program. Founded in 1989, the LAAE is one of the remaining career and technical education programs in California and is also the only engineering academy amongst public high schools. LAAE has many notable achievements building alternative energy vehicles. The Los Altos Academy of Engineering is a student-run program that offers high school students opportunities to explore career paths through education, training in vocational and business skills, hands-on experience, and exposure to engineering and technology.

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If you would like more information or schedule a visit, please call John Weng at 626-435-5034, 626-330-1096 or email John at [johnw@lasv.org](mailto:johnw@lasv.org)