

# Los Altos Academy of Engineering

*Building a cleaner, more fuel efficient tomorrow*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Los Altos Students Make Finals for The Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Award

On December 1, 2008, The Los Altos Academy of Engineering frantically assembled a team of five students to compete in the Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Award competition. The team is lead by Eduardo Barrera (11th grade) and its team members include Stephanie Hsu (12<sup>th</sup> grade), John Weng (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Vivian Tse (10<sup>th</sup> grade) and John Chen (10<sup>th</sup> grade). Even though the team members had been chosen, another great challenge arose. Initial submissions were due on January 9<sup>th</sup> and the team had not even conceived a topic. However, the team was adamant at the prospect of competing in the Pete Conrad Spirit of Innovation Award competition.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the LAAE Conrad members were informed that they had made it to finals. The number of teams competing this year was forty-seven. Of the forty-seven twenty one advanced to the finals. The Los Altos Academy of Engineering has worked hard to make it past round one and is now working hard to preparing final submissions. 1<sup>st</sup> place wins a minimum amount of \$10,000.

It took every minute from December 1<sup>st</sup> through January 9<sup>th</sup> to complete all the requirements to enter the competition. The team had to create a concept for either: Personal Spaceflight, Renewable Energy, or Lunar Exploration. Initial submissions were comprised of a technical document, a business document, and a graphical representation.

The team chose the subject of Lunar Exploration and devised the idea of a lunar sight-seeing bus named the Lunar Spectator. The Lunar Spectator, a tank-like vehicle, is powered by a hydrogen internal combustion engine. The benefits of Lunar Spectator are the relative abundance of hydrogen in the atmosphere and its only byproduct, water.

The LAAE at Los Altos High School is a joint program with 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. LAAE has many

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notable achievements building electric and solar vehicles. The mission of the Los Altos Academy of Engineering is to establish opportunities in mathematics, science, computer science, and engineering for students who demonstrate an early interest in these career fields.

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*If you would like more information about Conrad, the Los Altos Academy of Engineering, or would like to schedule a visit, please call Eduardo Barrera at 626-330-1096 or email Eduardo at [laae.pr@gmail.com](mailto:laae.pr@gmail.com)*