



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 1

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOLETA UNION ELEMENTARY STUDENTS VIE FOR NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION AWARD AND THOUSAND-DOLLAR PRIZE

Eureka - Will the next great transportation innovation emerge from the classrooms of Loleta Union Elementary School? Seventh and eighth-grade students at the school could earn national recognition – and a \$1,000 check for the school – by using their imaginations to create an award-winning transportation project.

Loleta Union Elementary School will compete against other California and national middle schools in the Garrett Morgan Sustainable Transportation Program for the 21st Century Symposium. The program is sponsored by Caltrans, the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) of San Jose, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Each participating school will develop and present a project that is designed to address some facet of sustainable transportation. The students will present their projects at the Symposium in March 2009, and the winning project will be announced at MTI's annual scholarship awards banquet in June 2009. The winning school will receive a \$1,000 check, and a student, parent, and teacher from the school receive an expense-paid trip to San Jose for the awards banquet, attended by the Secretary of Transportation. The teachers of all classes participating in the competition will receive a \$50 gift certificate for project supplies.

"Participating in the Garrett Morgan Symposium provides students a hands-on opportunity for learning math and science. They also learn how the knowledge they gain can impact their community, the economy, and the environment," said Charlie Fielder, Caltrans District 1 Director.

The program is named in honor of Garrett Morgan, the son of former slaves, who invented the three-position traffic signal in the 1920s. The technology Morgan developed is the basis for the modern-day traffic signal.

For more information on the program, please visit:
<http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/mtiportal/education/gm.html>.

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