

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOM HAMMONDS RACE FOR ACHIEVEMENT LAUNCHES PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS WITH 8th MARINE CORPS DISTRICT

-High School Initiative Kicks-off in Katy, Texas-

(HOLT, Fla., Mar. 28, 2009) – Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC's (THE) , in conjunction with the 8th Marine Corps District launched an expansion for the current Race For Achievement middle school program that is also now geared toward high school students .

The Race For Achievement program allows Tom Hammonds and the 8th Marine Corps District representatives to promote education, achievement, scholarship and leadership excellence achieved through attending college using programs such as the Marines Corps ROTC Scholarship.

"We are very excited to be partnered with the 8th Marine Corps District Marine for our new high school initiative," said an excited Tom Hammonds, owner/driver of the No. 20 Race for Achievement NHRA Pro

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Stock race team. “My vision for which the program is based is very much in sync with the Marine Corps’ core values of honor, courage and commitment - making it an excellent partnership.”

“I’ve been in recruiting for more than a decade and this is the first program I have been involved with that has such tremendous opportunities to reach young men and women about what their options are after high school. Tom Hammonds also makes a strong impression which captures students’ attention -- and they listen,” said Master Gunnery Sgt Steven Martinez, a recruiter instructor out of Recruiting Station Denver, Colo.

Participating students will have a rap session with Tom Hammonds and a 8th Marine Corps District representative encouraging students to achieve success through continuing education, being a leader, and making sound decisions that can affect a student’s future. Following the session, students view the No. 20 Race for Achievement Chevy Cobalt, the transporter, and the U.S. Marine Corps traveling exhibit. Race Pack and tickets are provided for students to attend NHRA Friday’s race, with transportation provided.

Per the school’s administration and faculty recommendation, one student is chosen to serve as Tom’s honorary crew member at the track. Student participation is based on maintaining a “B” average, good behavior, and no suspensions and/or unexcused absences.

Partner schools are located in coinciding race markets and are chosen with the assistance of the 8th Marine Corps District. Three pilot programs, beginning in Katy, Texas, at James E. Taylor High School and Miller Career and Technology Center and continuing to Dallas and Denver, are scheduled for the 2009 NHRA race season.

Hammonds said, “Our sessions at Miller Career and Technology and James E. Taylor were very enlightening and demonstrated that students are very savvy these days and surprisingly do have some self direction. The Race For Achievement program was able to re-enforce students’ success so they will continue to grow in the areas of achievement, scholarship, leadership, and honor of self. They can never be told ‘good job and continue toward your dream of success’ too much.”

Tom Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC is dedicated to rewarding students for their achievement. By doing so it builds self-esteem and confidence that build strong students and ultimately good citizens. Overall, the program sees itself as being a part of the community team and will always be the voice of personal and professional growth. They believe for students to have an opportunity to grow through attending college on an United States Marines Corps ROTC Scholarship gets to the heart of promoting both aspects.

“The Marine Corps couldn’t have chosen a better person and athlete to partner with than Tom Hammonds. He’s not involved with any tobacco or alcohol product sponsorships which sets him as a good role model for all young men and women. He also encourages all students to attend college. He helps to explain to those interested that the Marine Corps ROTC program is one of their options to use in order to reach their degree goals and thus potentially become a Marine Corps Officer,” said Martinez.

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About Tom Hammonds and Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE)

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Racing since the age of 16, Chevrolet backed Tom Hammonds made a triumphant return to full-time drag racing at the Gatornationals Gainesville Raceway in March 2007. He is the only African American owner (Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC) and driver of a race team on the NHRA circuit. Previous owner of a Chevrolet dealership, Hammonds was drafted 9th overall in the 1989 NBA draft and enjoyed his career with Washington, Denver, Charlotte, and Minnesota, where he completed his career. Before his illustrious NBA career, he played college basketball at Georgia Tech, where his jersey was retired for being the fourth all time leading scorer and received a bachelors of science in business management. A native of Crestview, Fla., he was inducted into the All Sports Association Hall of Fame of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. in March 2007.

Tom Hammonds Enterprises, LLC (THE) is located in Holt, Fla. and was formed in 2005. THE takes pride in promoting high performance and safety in the sport of drag racing. Housing such programs as Tom Hammonds Engines, a program specifically for performance drivers to rent custom built engines, and Tom Hammonds Race for Achievement, a school program dedicated to revving the engines of education through student achievement, the company's mission is to make an impact on the sport of drag racing. THE is the only African American owned and driven team on the NHRA circuit. For more information, visit www.tomhammondsracing.com.