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Sacramento Academic & Vocational Academy (SAVA) Begins First Electric Vehicle Lowrider Conversion Project

(Sacramento, California) - Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy (SAVA), a charter school of Gateway Community Charters (GCC), has announced the launch of the first electric vehicle (EV) lowrider conversion project, which will innovate traditional lowrider equipment and promote the development of a new EV pathway within SAVA's transportation career pathway department.

Students in historically under-resourced communities will participate in the groundbreaking project, with guidance from academic, private, and public sector partners, including The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento Lowrider Commission, Ohm Electric Cars and the California Automobile Museum.

Lowriders were selected for the EV conversion project in part due to their cultural significance to the Sacramento Hispanic community. The culturally relevant learning tool is designed to promote clean energy jobs and electric vehicle adoption within all communities.

SAVA and project partners will be showcasing the beginning stages of this project at the 36th annual Electric Vehicle Symposium and Exposition (EVS36) taking place at the Sacramento Convention Center June 11-14.

Annually, over 200 students take classes within the transportation sector across the SAVA consortium. Developing an EV pathway will help create the green workforce pipeline needed to reach California's clean energy goals. As California leads the zero carbon effort by eliminating the sale of new gas-powered vehicles by 2035, the partnership also strives to ensure equitable access to electric vehicles for all communities. The transition to zero-emission requires significant investments, infrastructure upgrades and will drastically increase demand for skilled workers in these fields.

SMUD also plans to eliminate carbon emissions from the region's power supply by 2030. Through education, career development, partnerships, and community involvement, SMUD also aims to support the area's clean energy workforce and the electrification of transportation and buildings.

The Sac Metro Air District is proud to provide funding and educational support for SAVA's EV lowrider project. As the local government agency responsible for reducing air and climate change pollution, each year, the Air District funds numerous projects throughout the Sacramento region to reduce emissions and replace high-polluting engines. The Air District is committed to improving air quality and protecting public health, especially in underserved communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution

The SAVA consortium and collaborating partners will create a unique opportunity to help bolster Sacramento's workforce, help eliminate barriers in the transition to zero-emission technology, and ensure the next generation of the clean energy workforce is as diverse as the communities they serve.

About Gateway Community Charters (GCC)

Gateway Community Charters (GCC) has been a cornerstone of Sacramento area public education for over twenty years. Educators, parents, community, and political stakeholders recognize the value of providing public school choice options, especially to those students who have historically been underserved. With nine charter schools, five authorizers, and over 5,400 students, the GCC has demonstrated that it plays a vital role in providing options for the diverse needs of youth in our region. For more information about GCC, please visit <https://www.gcccharters.org/#>

About Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy (SAVA)

SAVA is a consortium of three schools throughout the Sacramento region. It provides a unique blend of academic and vocational training that enables students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in both college and career. SAVA offers a variety of programs in the fields of transportation, construction, culinary arts, health sciences, and media arts. For more information about SAVA, please visit <https://www.savacharterschool.org/evlowrider>

About SMUD

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years. SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. Today, SMUD's power supply is, on average, about 50 percent carbon-free, and SMUD has a goal to reach zero carbon in its electricity production by 2030. For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org

Sac Metro Air District

The Sac Metro Air District is the leading regional agency responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution, enforcing air quality regulations, and promoting decarbonization efforts through innovative incentive programs and projects. The Air District also works to ensure clean air and meet National Ambient Air Quality standards. For more information about the Air District, please visit www.AirQuality.org.

About California Automobile Museum (CAM)

The mission of the California Automobile Museum (CAM) is to preserve, exhibit and teach the story of the automobile and its influence on our lives. The museum has been teaching the subject of electric transportation since 1987 and has conducted thousands of student tours over the years with a focus on STEM and STEAM curricula. We are proud to be part of this project, teaching concepts and skills that are directly transferable to the emerging green energy economy. For more information about the California Automobile Museum, please visit www.calautomuseum.org

About Sacramento Lowrider Commission

The Sacramento Lowrider Commission is honored to be part of the electric lowrider build partnership as it engages youth in a variety of curriculum pathways: engineering, mechanical, automotive, art, music, and electronics, all while teaching the next generation of traditional builds and preparing them for the future zero emissions pathway. Lowriding is an important aspect of California's history and has served as a profound form of positive mental health, and cultural and artistic expression.