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South Side Students Race to e-Learning Success with \$500,000 Donation from Toyota

- *Launch of virtual education hub to inspire the next generation for advanced manufacturing*

SAN ANTONIO, Texas., (October 29, 2020) – Notebooks and chalkboards have given way to tablets and hotspots as school necessities in the age of virtual learning. For nearly 60,000 students on the city’s South Side, the digital divide means the tools needed to complete schoolwork are in demand.

To help close the gap, the six school districts surrounding Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Texas (TMMTX) will receive \$500,000 for access to digital learning. The Toyota USA Foundation awarded a grant to Somerset ISD for \$200,000 and TMMTX is donating \$300,000 to five remaining school districts.

“We’re located in the heart of San Antonio’s South Side, and now more than ever, we have a responsibility as a community partner to play an integral role,” said Kevin Voelkel, TMMTX president. “Access to education and the internet should be considered a basic right for students. Where you live and how much money you have should not determine whether you can participate and be successful at school.”

The grant to Somerset ISD is part of 31 grants awarded by the Toyota USA Foundation in September to communities across the country help bridge the digital divide. Today’s grants from TMMTX include \$100,000 for Southside ISD and \$50,000 each for East Central ISD, Harlandale ISD, South San Antonio ISD, and Southwest ISD.

“Toyota’s generous gift will have an immediate impact in closing the digital divide that currently exists in our community,” said Somerset ISD Superintendent Dr. Saul Hinojosa. “Somerset ISD staff, parents, and students will reap long term benefits from this grant which ensures that devices are available for all students, particularly as digital instruction prevails. Toyota continues to be our champion of change initiatives, and the magnitude of their impact on student success is astounding.”

Toyota also debuted a new education hub, providing virtual tours, STEM-based lessons, and more. The community can virtually visit Toyota Texas to see where Tundras and Tacomas are made, and step into the future to discover how Toyota is building a mobile society.

Education hub resources are free and available to the public by visiting [Tour Toyota Education Hub](#) .

Videos and photos from today’s virtual donation announcement for broadcast are available for [download](#).

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About Toyota:

Toyota (NYSE:TM) has been a part of the cultural fabric in the U.S. and North America for more than 60 years, and is committed to advancing sustainable, next-generation mobility through our Toyota and Lexus brands. During that time, Toyota has created a tremendous value chain as our teams have contributed to world-class design, engineering, and assembly of more than 40 million cars and trucks in North America, where we have 14 manufacturing plants, 15 including our joint venture in Alabama (10 in the U.S.), and directly employ more than 47,000 people (over 36,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (nearly 1,500 in the U.S.) sold nearly 2.8 million cars and trucks (nearly 2.4 million in the U.S.) in 2019.

Through the Start Your Impossible campaign, Toyota highlights the way it partners with community, civic, academic and governmental organizations to address our society's most pressing mobility challenges. We believe that when people are free to move, anything is possible. For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotaneewsroom.com.