SAE International and Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia honor Teacher Ginger Pate of New Mountain Hill Elementary School with Award for Teaching Excellence

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Established in 1998, this award recognizes elementary school teachers that further develop the understanding and experiences in math and science in elementary students. To be eligible for this award, nominees (individuals or teams) must be elementary teachers (K-6) from public, parochial or private schools, and must have demonstrated exemplary use of the AWIM program curriculum. The award consists of a framed certificate and a $2,000 honorarium that will be divided equally between the teacher and the elementary school where the program was implemented.

“We are extremely grateful for all of the support that Kia has provided for the AWIM curriculum,” said Chris Ciuca, director of pre-professional education at SAE International. “Kia’s commitment to local education makes a profound impact on the students and teachers. Their support provides for systemic improvement in STEM education across the region.”

Through generous support from Kia, over the past few years, students in kindergarten through eighth grade in the Harris County School District have taken on the role of an engineer by using SAE International’s A World in Motion® program. Specifically, Pate used the “Rolling Things” and “Engineering Inspired by Nature” programs.

In “Rolling Things,” students explore how changing the ramp height and vehicle weight affect the momentum of toy cars. Concepts covered include gravity, potential and kinetic energy, friction, momentum, mass, velocity and acceleration. In “Engineering Inspired by Nature,” students investigate seeds that are dispersed by the wind. They apply what they have learned to make paper helicopters and parachutes. They test different variables (lengths, width, weight, etc.) to see how these factors affect performance.

AWIM is a teacher-administered, industry volunteer-assisted program that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to life in the classroom for students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. Benchmarked to the national standards, the AWIM program incorporates integrated STEM learning experiences through hands-on activities that reinforce classroom STEM learning.

SAE International is a global association committed to being the ultimate knowledge source for the engineering profession. By uniting more than 127,000 engineers and technical experts, we drive knowledge and expertise across a broad spectrum of industries. We act on two priorities: encouraging a lifetime of learning for mobility

engineering professionals and setting the standards for industry engineering. We strive for a better world through the work of our philanthropic SAE Foundation, including programs like A World in Motion® and the Collegiate Design Series™.

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