Tennessee Organization Announces Grant Program for Destination ImagiNation®

Grant designed to increase Tennessee participation in educational programs for students to learn and experience creativity, teamwork and problem solving.

Nov. 21, 2009 - <u>*PRLog*</u> -- Tennessee Association, Inc, a nonprofit organization that provides the Destination ImagiNation® program in Tennessee, has announced a grant program to support a START A TEAM initiative. The grant will provide "start up" funds for schools or other organizations to help establish new Destination ImagiNation teams in Tennessee.

Destination ImagiNation is an exhilarating after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. Teams are tested to think on their feet, work together, and devise original solutions that satisfy the requirements of the Challenges. Linda Chambers, director of Destination ImagiNation in Tennessee said, "Participants gain more than just basic knowledge and skills – they learn to unleash their imaginations and take unique approaches to problem solving."

Over 1,000 students and 400 volunteers participate in Destination ImagiNation in Tennessee each year. "We want to see that number grow", said Rick Wimberly, Chairman of the Board of Tennessee Association, Inc. "We have seen first-hand students throughout the state become better prepared to creatively solve problems they face in their personal lives, their communities, and their work places through Destination ImagiNation. Plus, the students and the volunteers have fun along the way", said Wimberly.

The grant proceeds will help provide support to schools or other organizations in the state that would like to start Destination ImagiNation teams. The Tennessee grant program is associated with the two-year Destination ImagiNation START A TEAM recruiting initiative, designed to make the program more accessible to more students. More than 1.3-million young people from first grade through college have participated in Destination ImagiNation programs. More than 30 countries currently participate. The international tournament called "Global Finals" is held annually on the campus of The University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Those interested in starting Destination ImagiNation teams can do so by visiting <u>http://www.IDODI.org</u>. Grant applications can be obtained by visiting <u>http://www.taidi.org</u>. The deadline for applying this year is December 1, 2009.

About Destination ImagiNation START A TEAM

Start a Team with Destination ImagiNation today at http://www.IDODI.org. Destination ImagiNation is an exhilarating after-school activity in which students work in teams to solve mind-bending Challenges and present their solutions at Tournaments. Destination ImagiNation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with more than 1.3 million alumni and a global network of 35,000 volunteers.

About Tennessee Association, Inc.

Tennessee Association, Inc. is a non-profit, fully-volunteer organization that sponsors the Destination ImagiNation program in Tennessee. Well over one-thousand students from throughout the state participate in the program, and are supported by over 400 volunteers each year. Tennessee Association, Inc.'s Board of Directors is made up of representations from throughout Tennessee, including alumni of the program. Contact: Rick Wimberly rick.wimberly@galainsolutions.com 615-207-5074 Taidi.org

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