

ATHENA RACING

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“The Art of Racing in the Rain” Generously Supports an All-Girls High School Auto Racing Team

Celebrated author, Garth Stein, who wrote the book “The Art of Racing in the Rain,” now the beloved movie, has generously donated autographed books for donors of Athena Racing.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN DIEGO, CA /SEPTEMBER 26 – “I’m creating a team of female race car drivers, who are in high school, to teach them about STEM related subjects and careers. Your book is on my must-read list, the story of racing told from a dog’s point of view, I was hooked from the first page. Do you have time for an interview during your premiere week?” Not the usual start of a conversation especially during the opening week of a movie, but the beginning of a friendship between Garth Stein and Loxley Browne, the Executive Director of Athena Racing. As you can guess, Garth said yes, and a budding journalist, Cydney Melton, with Athena Racing had the opportunity of a lifetime to talk with a writer whose story has touched lives.

A unique extracurricular program, Athena Racing is an all-female high school auto racing team. The goal is to create learning experiences and opportunities for young women that increase their confidence and inspire them to pursue their passion in a STEM-driven world. “Our program empowers young women through top-notch classroom instruction and hands-on practical instruction,” says Loxley Browne. “Athena Racing gives young women the opportunity to explore the motorsport industry whether it be as a driver, mechanic, engineer, designer... or a job yet to be defined.”

In the midst of a capital fundraising campaign for 2019, Garth Stein volunteered autographed books to donors who contribute \$500 or more to the team. Weeks into the campaign, Browne has been presenting to private individuals, foundations, schools and corporations. Funding a STEM education race team is not easy, but with her startup business mentality and innovative approach, she has created a place of play and learning that is capturing the imaginations of students and supporters.

“If everything in the world could be done by women instead of men, everything would be done better. That’s just a fact. And we know that. Enlightened men know that. The problem is that the unenlightened men are still clinging to power and are trying to not let their power go,” Stein said. “But honestly, I would prefer it if women just ran everything because they’re smarter, they’re more compassionate, they’re more patient, they’re not as rash. I mean they’re so – I mean, are you kidding me – I wish it were all women racers out there.”

Do we think that each team member is worth the \$50,000 full-ride scholarship? ABSOLUTELY! In a life-changing year-long program that will change the course of the team member’s career path and abilities how can we limit their self-worth and potential with a price tag? How would you feel if someone had

told you as a teenager that investing in you wasn't worth it? Browne was told that in a conversation which has only increased her determination to change the mindsets and assist more young ladies to follow paths in STEM-related careers where females are a small, underserved minority.

In an interview with Athena's News and Media Assistant, Cydney Melton, Stein discussed his appreciation for leading women. "If everything in the world could be done by women instead of men, everything would be done better," Stein said. "If you are coordinated as a team and work as a unit, you can accomplish a lot more than as a bunch of individuals trying to get something done."

Although Stein's novel focused mainly on the relationship between dog and man, his philosophies throughout the story aligned closely with the morals and ideas behind Athena Racing. Ultimately, Athena Racing is a place for young women to grow into leaders in STEM and automotive industries, while working together as a team.

The team is set to race and learn. Can you help them reach their goal? To receive your commemorative autographed edition of "The Art of Racing in the Rain" make a donation of \$500 or more. Donations can be made online at <https://athenaracing.org/donate> and your contribution will be tax deductible.

About Athena Racing:

Athena Racing is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education extracurricular program focused on providing training and mentorship to young ladies in high school interested in pursuing innovative careers in the automotive, motorsport and transportation industry. Visit AthenaRacing.org to learn more.

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