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Contact: Terry Robinson | Director of Communications and Public Relations | 225-367-6202 | trobinson4@ebrschools.org

Tara High Students Helping Raise Money for Scholarships

BATON ROUGE, La. — Students in Tara High School's entrepreneurship classes are putting their business skills to work to help raise money for a college scholarship fund benefiting seniors.

Through their student-run company, T-Rising, students are designing and producing custom-made Santa hats and Christmas stockings, with proceeds supporting scholarships for the graduating seniors planning to continue their education. The items are available to the public for a $5 donation each.

Organized by entrepreneurship teacher Donald Esteen, the initiative grew out of a desire to create additional financial opportunities for Tara students.

"We're the third highest-performing school in EBR, but we're not getting scholarships," Esteen said. "We thought we could be the first school to actually have an in-house scholarship fund for our students to go to college. We're trying to raise $50,000. I have seniors in my class who desire to go to college. TOPS doesn't pay for everything."

The project is entirely student-driven and operated in-house. Students design, produce and personalize the products, manage orders and oversee sales.

Customers can personalize their Santa hats and stockings with names and other designs. Tara students and supporters can request custom designs; orders from customers outside the school must include the Tara name on at least one side. Orders are expected to have a 24- to 48-hour turnaround.

T-Rising plans to continue operating throughout the school year, introducing products for Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. A small portion of the proceeds will be retained to help support next year's scholarships. The ultimate goal is to award scholarships to Tara seniors during graduation.
For more information, https://bit.ly/3UNgst1.

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