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***FIRST*[®] Championship Draws More Than 10,000 Young People in Three Levels of Robotics Challenges at the Ultimate Celebration of Science and Technology**

Inventor Dean Kamen, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Professional Engineers and Sponsors Recognize Exceptional Robotics Competitors

Special Video Appearance by Bill Gates

ATLANTA, April 17, 2010 — Twenty thousand *FIRST*[®] supporters – mentors, students, volunteers, sponsors and fans – gathered this weekend at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta to experience the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Championship, the ultimate heart-pounding, high-energy celebration of science and technology. The 19th annual *FIRST* Championship culminated in a frenzied final round of robotic matches when teams from Redondo Beach, Calif., Milford, Mich., and South Windsor, Conn., emerged victorious as the winning *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition alliance. *FIRST* founder, inventor [Dean Kamen](#), presented this award and a list of others, and Secretary of Education [Arne Duncan](#) joined Kamen in presenting the 2010 *FIRST* Dean's List Award.

More than 500 teams from 30 countries competed in the three levels of *FIRST*: *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League (FLL[®], grades 4 to 8, 9 to 14-year-olds in the U.S and Canada; 9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S and Canada); *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge (FTC[®], grades 9 to 12, 14 to 18-year-olds); and *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC[®], grades 9 to 12, ages 14-18).

“Over the past few days in Atlanta, we have had the opportunity to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers,” said Kamen. “This is increasingly important as we try to build momentum in the U.S. to fuel a robust talent pipeline of innovative 21st century STEM professionals. For the thousands of young problem-solvers who participated in the *FIRST* Championship, we caught a glimpse of the great things that are in store when these students tackle greater challenges in years ahead.”

Another noted technologist, Bill Gates, sent a special video offering encouragement and congratulations to all competitors at the *FIRST* Championship.

FIRST is a not-for-profit that celebrates science and technology via robotics competitions worldwide. The 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization inspires young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that encourages innovation, and that foster self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

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The *FIRST* Community continues to grow with more than 212,000 students, 90,000 volunteers, thousands of alumni, and more than 3,500 sponsors. This year's event marked the highest level of participation since *FIRST* began in 1992 in a New Hampshire high school gymnasium with one level of competition. *FIRST* now offers three distinct and challenging levels of competitions. Following are descriptions of each competition and winners:

***FIRST* ROBOTICS COMPETITION (FRC) CHAMPIONSHIP**

High-school student teams built their robots from a kit of hundreds of parts in six weeks. More than 340 teams competed in "Breakaway™," a soccer-like game to climb obstacles and score goals against their opponents. The Winning Alliance of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship was: Team 294, "Beach Cities Robotics," Redondo Beach, Calif.; Team 67, "The HOT Team," Milford, Mich.; Team 177, "Bobcat Robotics," South Windsor, Conn., from the Newton Division.

Team 341 "Miss Daisy" of Ambler, Pa., won the Chairman's Award, the highest honor given at the FRC Championship, recognizing the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of *FIRST*.

Winners of the Dean's List Award were: Beth Hadley, Team 548, "Robostangs," Northville, Mich.; Seth Berg, Team 694, "StuyPulse," New York, N.Y.; Kyle Fender, Team 1002, "The CircuitRunners," Marietta, Ga.; Carlos Pineda, Team 1480, "Robatos Locos," Houston, Texas; Ian Graham, Team 1535, "Knights of Alloy," Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada; Delia Votsch, Team 1712, "Spirit of the United Neretva," Ardmore, Pa.; Caitlin Mori, Team 2437, "Lancer Robotics," Honolulu, Hawaii; Luke Scime, Team 2614, "MARS," Morgantown, W.V.; Sarah Heimlich, Team 3132, "Thunder Down Under," Sydney, Australia; Ingrid Fiedler, Team 3368, "Dawgma," Mostar, Herzegovina.

***FIRST* TECH CHALLENGE (FTC)**

More than 100 teams competed in the "Hot Shot™" *FIRST* Tech Challenge, in which teams' robots earned points by collecting and firing balls into their designated goals. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge World Championship Inspire Award, recognizing excellence in robot design and teamwork, went to Team 25 "Rock 'n Roll Robots" from Arcadia, Calif. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge Winning Alliance was Team 2868 (Captain) "Smoke and Mirrors" from Lakeland, Fla.; Team 2843 "Under the Son" from Hollywood, Md.; and Team 3864 "GForce" from Aiken, S.C.

***FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE (FLL)**

Eighty-four teams from around the world participated in the *FIRST* LEGO League World Festival. This year's challenge, "Smart Move," focused on applying robotics and research to some of today's transportation safety and efficiency problems. Top honors went to Champion's Award 1st Place winner, Team 3013, "The Inventioners" from Londonderry, N.H.; Champion's Award 2nd Place winner, Team 1262, "Get Smart" from Peoria, Ariz.; and Champion's Award 3rd Place winner, Team 127, "Cougars" from Columbus, Ohio. The Champion's Award measures how teams inspire and motivate others about the excitement and wonders of science and technology, while demonstrating Gracious Professionalism™.

SCHOLARSHIPS

FIRST also recognized the recipients of numerous educational scholarships worth \$12 million from the most prestigious science and engineering schools in the country, such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvey Mudd College, Kettering University, Georgia Tech, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Carnegie Mellon University, Purdue University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Bucknell University.

RESULTS

The honors that were awarded at the *FIRST* Championship included:

- **Founder's Award**, presented each year by *FIRST* founder Dean Kamen to one organization or individual for exceptional service in advancing the ideals and mission of *FIRST* – Rockwell Collins;
- **Woodie Flowers Award**, founded by Dr. William P. Murphy Jr. to recognize an outstanding engineer or teacher who best demonstrates teaching excellence in teaching science, math and creative design – Chris Fultz, Program Director, Rolls-Royce Corp.
- **Outstanding Commitment Award**, celebrates one individual who has had a sustained impact on the *FIRST* Championship by actively supporting *FIRST* programs through leadership and personal commitment over an extended period – Capt. Vincent Wilczynski, Ph.D., Dean of Engineering, U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

***FIRST* Robotics Competition Championship:**

- **Engineering Inspiration Award** – Team 141, “WO-BOT,” Michigan
- **Championship Finalists** – Team 1114, “Simbotics,” Ontario, Canada; Team 469, “Las Guerrillas,” Michigan; Team 2041, “The Robocats,” Illinois
- **Division Winners – Archimedes Division:** Team 254, “Cheesy Poofs,” California; Team 233, “The Pink Team,” Florida; Team 3357, “COMETS,” Michigan. **Curie Division:** Team 1114, “Simbotics,” Ontario, Canada; Team 469, “Las Guerrillas,” Michigan; Team 2041, “The Robocats,” Illinois. **Galileo Division:** Team 1625, “Winnovation,” Illinois; Team 2056, “OP Robotics,” Ontario, Canada; Team 3138, “Innovators Robotics,” Ohio. **Newton Division:** Team 294, “Beach Cities Robotics,” California; Team 67, “The HOT Team,” Michigan; Team 177, “Bobcat Robotics,” Connecticut
- **Division Finalists – Archimedes Division:** Team 33, “Killer Bees,” Michigan; Team 148, “Robowrangler, Texas; Team 201, “The FEDS,” Michigan. **Curie Division:** Team 1986, “Team Titanium, Missouri; Team 1676, “The Pascack PI-oneers,” New Jersey; Team 888, “Robotiators,” Maryland. **Galileo Division:** Team 78, “AIR Strike,” Rhode Island; Team 51, “Wings of Fire,” Michigan; Team 2122, “Team Tators,” Idaho. **Newton Division:** Team 1718, “The Fighting Pi,” Michigan; Team 16, “Bomb Squad,” Arkansas; Team 343, “Metal-In-Motion,” South Carolina
- **Coopertition™ Award – Archimedes Division:** Team 254, “Cheesy Poofs,” California; **Curie Division:** Team 2612, “Waterford Mott Destroyers,” Michigan; **Galileo Division:** Team 1086, “Blue Cheese,” Virginia; **Newton Division:** Team 294, “Beach Cities Robotics,” California
- **Creativity Award sponsored by Xerox** – Team 469, “Las Guerillas,” Michigan
- **Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi** – Team 2056, “OP Robotics,” Ontario, Canada
- **Entrepreneurship Award sponsored by Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers** – Team 1714, “More Robotics,” Wisconsin
- **Excellence in Design Award (3D) sponsored by Autodesk** – Team 234, “Cyber Blue,” Indiana
- **Excellence in Design Award (Animation) sponsored by Autodesk** – Team 1671, “DOC,” California
- **Gracious Professionalism™ Award sponsored by Johnson & Johnson** – Team 1305, “Ice Cubed,” Ontario, Canada
- **Imagery Award in honor of Jack Kamen** – Team 2839, “The Daedalus Project,” California
- **Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors** – Team 33, “Killer Bees,” Michigan
- **Industrial Safety Award sponsored by Underwriters Laboratories** – Team 597, “Wolverines,” California
- **Innovation in Control Award sponsored by Rockwell Automation** – Team 1986, “Team Titanium,” Missouri
- **Quality Award sponsored by Motorola** – Team 1717, “D’Penguineers,” California
- **Team Spirit Award sponsored by Chrysler** – Team 2283, “Panteras,” Mexico
- **Highest Rookie Seed Award** – Archimedes Division: Team 3280, “RhodeRebels,” Rhode Island; **Curie Division:** Team 3234, “Lowell Red Arrows,” MI; Galileo Division: Team 3138, “Innovators Robotics, Ohio; **Newton Division:** Team 3168, “Warriors,” Virginia
- **Rookie All-star Award** – Team 3138, “Innovators Robotics,” Ohio

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- **Rookie Inspiration Award** – Team 3158, “TECBOT,” Mexico
- **Website Award** – Team 461, “Westside Boiler Invasion,” Indiana
- **Judges’ Awards** – Black Tie Award: Team 1583, “Ridge View Academy Rambotics,” Colorado;
- **Ripple Effect Award**; Team 1577, “steampunk,” Israel

FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship:

- **World Championship Finalists** – Team 3855, “Tempered Steel,” Minnesota; Team 154, “Renegade Robotics,” RI; Team 2859, “Team Tiki,” Virginia
- **Division Finalists** – Edison Division: Team 577, “Wreckers,” Connecticut; Team 2888, “Oddly Charged Particles,” Missouri; Team 1885, “ILITE Robotics,” Virginia; Franklin Division: Team 568, “Steelers,” Wisconsin; Team 3531, “The Short Circuits,” Oregon; Team 452, “PHI Power through Higher Innovation,” California
- **PTC Design Award** – Team 245, “Roberts Creek Xtreme Robotic Minds,” British Columbia, Canada
- **Connect Award** – Team 1, “Team Unlimited,” Massachusetts
- **Rockwell Collins Innovate Award** – Team 3595, “Euler’s Number Pi the Speed of Light,” Arkansas
- **Motivate Award** – Team 2859, “Team Tiki,” Virginia
- **Think Award** – Team 568, “Steelers,” Wisconsin
- **Judges’ Awards** – The Generations Award: Team 32, “Einstein’s Daughters,” California;
- **Philosopher’s Muse**: Team 542, “WHS Robotics,” California

FIRST LEGO League World Festival:

- **Mechanical Design Award** – Team 3322, “LOL Comets”, California
- **Programming Award** – Team 7208, “Nanites”, Oregon
- **Robot Performance Award** – Team 12000, “Mov(i)e Stars”, Germany
- **Research Award** – Team 7185, “Mindstorm Masters”, Washington
- **Innovative Solution Award** – Team 9, “Falcon Eye,” Egypt
- **Sharing Award** – Team 3569, “6 Chics and a Dude,” Maine
- **Inspiration Award** – Team 22, “Fire-Breathing Rubber Duckies,” Oregon
- **Gracious Professionalism™ Award** – Team 12400, “Blau La Vall,” Spain
- **Teamwork Award** – Team 4514, “Legonauts,” California
- **Outstanding Volunteer Awards** – Laura Melnik, Florida, and Jake Ingman, Iowa
- **Adult Coach/Mentor Awards** – Mamdouh Azmy and Iman Al Mallah of Egypt, and Scott Gray of Arizona
- **Judges’ Awards**
 - Team 2965, “Les D`ebrouillards,” Canada
 - Team 3236, “X-Treme Botz,” Alaska
 - Team 12100, “Smove,” The Netherlands
 - Team 13600, “The Fantastic Rebuilders,” Haiti
 - Team 13550, “ECOBOTS,” Colombia
 - Team 9982, “Cyborg Kitties,” South Dakota

For a complete listing of awards, match results and scholarship winners, please visit *FIRST* online at www.usfirst.org and click on the “*FIRST* Championship” headline.

Sponsors

Official Championship Sponsors of the 2010 *FIRST* Championship include: Abbott, Autodesk, BAE Systems, SAIC and United Technologies, Other *FIRST* sponsors this year are: Boeing–*FIRST* Championship Sponsor; FedEx Corporation–*FIRST* Shipping Sponsor; NASA–Machine Shop and Satellite Broadcast Sponsor; Underwriters Laboratories, Inc– *FIRST* Safety Partner; Association for Laboratory Automation (ALA)–*FIRST* Judges Sponsor; Google–*FIRST* Event Sponsor; Missouri S&T–*FIRST* Scholarship Row Sponsor; Central Intelligence Agency and Rolls Royce–*FIRST* Robotics Conference Sponsors.

About FIRST®

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$12 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (FRC®) and *FIRST*® Tech Challenge (FTC®) for high-school students, *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) for 9 to 14-year-olds, (9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S. and Canada) and Junior *FIRST*® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL™) for 6 to 9-year-olds. Gracious Professionalism™ is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.usfirst.org.

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