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## **TEENS FROM SAN DIEGO SHOWCASE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SKILLS AT FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION – “Ultimate Ascent”**

**Over 1,500 Students Learn Problem Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors to participate at the San Diego Regional, *March 7-9, 2013***

**[San Diego, CA, February 12, 2013]** — High-school students from San Diego, Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Southern California will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after an intense six weeks of designing and building an original robot in the [FIRST®](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. In March, at the Valley View Casino Center (formerly Sports Arena), 60 teams of students and engineering and technical Mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, mathematics, and technology. They will compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, who introduced the IBOT Mobility System and the Segway® Human Transporter (HT), FIRST was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. Now in its 22nd season, the FIRST Robotics Competition anticipates close to 52,000 students on 2,500 teams from 49 states in the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom to compete in 52 regional competitions. More than 1,500 students and their robots will compete at the [San Diego Regional](#) in March to earn a spot at the Championship to be held April 24-27 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo.

The 2013 [“Ultimate Ascent” robotics game](#) is played between two Alliances of three teams each. Each Alliance competes by trying to score as many flying discs in their goals as possible during the two minute and 15-second match. Discs scored in higher goals score teams more points. Team Alliances are awarded bonus points if they can climb a ten foot high steel pyramid at the

end of the match.

“I don’t think any great innovator or technologist got up in the morning trying to do something really big, really innovative, because they wanted a job,” said Dean Kamen, FIRST founder and president of DEKA Research & Development Corporation. “If we create a generation of passionate, smart, well-educated, informed kids willing to take educated risks as they try new things. If we create a passionate generation that understands the power of technology and how to apply it, trust me—they’ll have jobs. That’s a consequence of what they’ll have. If FIRST succeeds, we’ll have a rebirth of a society that believes in a future that can and has to be better than the past. We’re going to make sure we build a 21st century, a future that’s way more exciting than the 20th century.”

This season, participating FIRST students are eligible to apply for more than \$16 million in scholarships from 150 leading universities and colleges.

Over a six-week timeframe, students work with professional engineering Mentors to design a robot that solves a problem using a Kit of Parts and a standard set of rules. Once these young inventors create the robot, their teams participate in regional competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

San Diego Regional FIRST Robotics Competition Sponsors and Volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area including Qualcomm, SAIC, Viasat and Teradata. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2013 season.

## **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 \$14 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., Canada, and Mexico) 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](http://www.usfirst.org).

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