FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Bryan Smith

661-496-6166

bsmith@newroads.org

**“HUMANS” RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT DURING LOS ANGELES’S MOST-ATTENDED ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

*Rookie Robotics Team 4501 - “Humans” from New Roads School Win the Prestigious Rookie All Star Award Earning a Coveted Spot at the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) World Championship*

LOS ANGELES – MARCH 23, 2013 – Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition Los Angeles Regional awarded Team 4501 - “Humans” with an honor celebrating this rookie team’s excellence, community outreach, and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the Long Beach Arena on March 22 and 23, Team 4501 competed to earn one of several spots at the *FIRST* Championship held April 24-27 in St. Louis, Mo.

With the hope of winning one of the several coveted awards, high school students worked with professional Mentors to design and build a robot over a six week period that solved a problem using a kit of parts and a standard set of rules. This year’s game, “Ultimate Ascent,” had robots participating in a frisbee style game where teams pick up and shoot Frisbees through various narrow goals and then had to climb a 10 foot steel pyramid.

Beneath the fascinating idea of high school kids designing, machining, and programming 150 pound robots, there is an undercurrent of a shift in culture that has teenagers thinking about how to make a positive and lasting impact in their communities. One award that focuses on this aspect is the Rookie All Star which celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but strong partnership effort, as well as implementing the mission of *FIRST:* To inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

As a rookie robotics team mentor, Bryan Smith, is not only proud of his team’s accomplishment, but impressed with the lessons learned throughout the season.

“Other than the obvious of learning to design, build, and program a robot, we learned how to be a team. We learned that when we work together we can accomplish more than we can apart. We also learned that making teamwork a habit can lead to unexpected and tremendous results”

The “Humans” unique approach to their team stems from their learning environment at the New Roads School in Los Angeles. The team’s motto is, “More than the Sum of Our Parts”, emphasizes their commitment to their team and their community.

New Road’s Head of School, David Bryan, has the following to say about the newly implemented FIRST program: "The passion and focus with which our students approach FRC is a clear indication that education needs more of this. Could one ask for better curriculum and pedagogy? Rich and complex understanding embedded in an activity that is challenging and oh so engaging. It's what everyone in education hopes for."

Sophomore and driver Jackson has the following to say about about the opportunity to go to the World Championship. “I never entertained the wildest hope of us being as successful as we were in the LA regional, and I’m greatly excited to have the chance to compete in the St. Louis.”

Despite their victory, the “Humans” do not have an easy road ahead of them. They have just a few short weeks to raise over $15,000 in order to transport themselves, and their robot, to competition in St. Louis.

Liberty Naud, President of local non-profit LA Robotics, is rallying for this rookie team. “We hope the entire Los Angeles community will come together to send this incredible team of high school students off to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You’re only a rookie once.”

Donations are appreciated and information about fundraisers and donation drives will be posted on the team’s website at:<http://blogs.newroads.org/robotics/>.

**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. 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.

# # #