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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT DURING SAN DIEGO'S MOST-ATTENDED ROBOTICS COMPETITION

*Teams from San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose, Nevada and Mexico Advance to
Championship, Others Win Honors for Design, Sportsmanship, Partnership*

SAN DIEGO – – Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the 7th Annual *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition San Diego Regional awarded several teams with honors that rewarded design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the Valley View Casino Center on March 8th and 9th, 60 high school student teams with over 1,500 students competed to earn a spot at the *FIRST* Championship held April 24-27, 2013, 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 ASCENTSM," had robots participating in a disc golf style game...with a *FIRST* twist.

Two team from San Diego will be advancing to the *FIRST* World Championship in St. Louis in April. Team 1538, The Holy Cows from High Tech High won the highest award in the competition, the Regional Chairman's Award, for the 5th consecutive year, plus they also earned the Engineering In Excellence Award. Team 1622, Team Spyder from Poway High School won the second highest award at the competition, Engineering Inspiration, and also earned the Safety Award.

San Diego Mayor Filner and Chula Vista Mayor Cox shared their words of wisdom with the crowd and San Diego City Councilmember Lightner proclaimed March 7-9, 2013 to be "FIRST Robotics Days" in San Diego.

"Seeing the teamwork, critical thinking, brainpower and determination of these students gives me great hope for our future." said David Berggren, Southern California Regional Director for *FIRST* Robotics. "You also couldn't help but be inspired during the competition with the enthusiastic cheering from spectators and teams that filled the stands at the Arena. Every volunteer left this event charged with the energy from these students having so much fun with engineering. With this strong commitment and interest from our community we are excited to continue engaging students in science and technology. "

Students participating in *FIRST* are eligible to apply for over \$16 million dollars in scholarships from leading universities, colleges and companies. Scholarship announcements are made at the *FIRST* championship in St. Louis. Since its beginning, *FIRST* has significantly improved students attitudes towards math, science and teamwork. The student's interest in pursuing internship and employment opportunities in science and engineering has increased, especially with those companies that participate in the *FIRST* program.

Winners of the 7th Annual *FIRST* Robotics 2013 San Diego Regional Awards include:

These Teams Are Advancing to FIRST World Championships in St. Louis:

Regional Chairman's Award** (*highest award of the competition*) - Team 1538 from High Tech High in San Diego, CA

Engineering Inspiration Award** (second highest award of competition) - Team 1622 from Poway High School in Poway, CA

Regional Champions** - Team 254 from San Jose, CA; Team 987 from Las Vegas, NV; Team 1138 from West Hills, CA

Rookie All-Star Award** (highest rookie award) - Team 467 from Mexicali, BCN, Mexico

Additional Awards:

Woodie Flowers Finalist Award - Roger Dohm, mentor for Team 1622

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award - Cameron Dennis, mentor for Team 1266 from Madison High School, in San Diego, CA

Regional Finalists - Team 2984 from La Jolla High School, in San Diego, CA

Chrysler Team Spirit Award - Team 2101 from San Dieguito High School Academy, in Encinitas, CA

Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi - Team 1538 from High Tech High in San Diego

General Motors Industrial Design Award - Team 3476 from River Springs Charter School & Heritage Christian School, in Dana Point, CA

Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism Award - Team 599 from Granada Hills Charter High School, in Granada Hills, CA

Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award - Team 1138 from Chaminade College Preparatory, in West Hills, CA

Motorola Quality Award - Team 254 from Bellarmine College Prep in San Jose, CA

Automation Innovation in Control Award - Team 987 from Las Vegas, NV

XEROX Creativity Award - Team 2485 from Francis Parker High School, in San Diego, CA

Highest Rookie Seed Award - Team 4583 from San Diego High School in San Diego, CA

Imagery Award - Team 1266 from Madison High School, in San Diego, CA

Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award - Team 1622 from Poway High School in Poway, CA

Rookie Inspiration Award - Team 4616 from Montgomery High School, in San Diego, CA

Judges' Award - Team 1159 from Ramona Convent Secondary School, in Alhambra, CA

**The Chairman's Award is the most prestigious award of the event and recognizes the team that embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST and best represents a model for other teams to emulate.*

***Denotes awards where teams qualify to participate in the FIRST Championship to be held in St. Louis, Mo.*

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 \$16 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®) for students in Grades 9-12; FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®) for Grades 7-12; FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) for Grades 4-8; and Junior FIRST® LEGO® League (Jr.FLL®) for Grades K-3. 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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