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**TEENS FROM SAN DIEGO SHOWCASE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SKILLS AT  
9TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO FIRST® ROBOTICS COMPETITION – “RECYCLE RUSH”,  
APRIL 3-4, 2015**

*Over 1,500 High School Students Learn Problem Solving and Teamwork in Addition to  
Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors*

[San Diego, CA, March 30, 2015] — Over 1,500 high-school students from San Diego, California, and Brazil 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 April, 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 24th season, the FIRST Robotics Competition anticipates close to 52,000 students on 3,000 teams in the U.S. and 19 countries worldwide to compete in 56 Regional Event and 48 District Competitions.

Students and their robots will compete at the 9th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition in April to earn a spot at the World Championship to be held April 22-25 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, MO.

The 2015 game, [RECYCLE RUSH](#), is a recycling-themed game played by two Alliances of three teams each. Robots score points by stacking totes on scoring platforms, capping those stacks with recycling containers, and properly disposing of pool noodles, representing litter. In keeping with the recycling theme of the game, all game pieces used are reusable or recyclable by teams in their home locations or by FIRST at the end of the season.

“FIRST isn’t about competing, it’s about cooperating, and recognizing that if you have the right tools, you’ll be able to make this world a better place for yourself and for the country,” said Dean Kamen, president of DEKA Research and Development and FIRST Founder, adding, “There is no stimulus package that will have as much return as stimulating a bunch of kids to become the workforce of the future, the problem solvers, the creators of the future.”

This season, participating FIRST students are eligible to apply for more than \$20 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.

The 9th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition Sponsors and Volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area including Qualcomm, ViaSat, EcoATM, D&K Engineering, Leidos, PTC, Teradata, Space Grant Education, and 3D Connexion. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers. Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2015 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 over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$19 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](http://www.usfirst.org).

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