LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE TO QUALIFY FOR *FIRST*® INTERNATIONAL ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP, MARCH 22-24

*At **18th Annual San Diego FIRST Robotics Competition**, 1500+ Students Learn Problem-Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots*

[San Diego, CA, March 18, 2024] — High-school students from California, Hawaii, Azerbaijan and 36 San Diego area schools will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work after an intense six weeks of designing and building an original robot in the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition (www.firstinspires.org).

This week, at the UCSD LionTree Arena, 51 teams of students and engineering and technical mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). 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, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a robotics community preparing young people for the future. More than 1500 students will compete at the 18th Annual San Diego *FIRST* Robotics Competition presented by Qualcomm to earn a spot at the International *FIRST*® Championship to be held April 17-20 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

CRESCENDO^SM presented by Haas is part of the 2024 *FIRST* IN SHOW^SM presented by Qualcomm season. In CRESCENDO, teams are encouraged to see all that is possible when combining their creative ideas and innovations with engineering and design. Through collaboration and communication, our *FIRST* robotics community around the world will celebrate

the role that the arts play in STEAM. Our skills make it possible to create art and experiences that bring us together, entertain us, and move us.

"Qualcomm has proudly sponsored the *FIRST* Robotics Challenge Regional in San Diego since 2006. Our commitment to *FIRST* is essential to developing a talented STEM workforce to continue helping the world tackle its more important challenges," said Angela Baker, Vice President, Qualcomm Incorporated. "It's thrilling to see what the students accomplished this *FIRST* IN SHOW season and we are delighted to champion them."

With a limited 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.

18th Annual San Diego *FIRST* Robotics Competition presented by Qualcomm sponsors and volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and volunteers.

For more information about *FIRST* in San Diego, please visit cafirst.org/sandiego.

About *FIRST*®

[FIRST]® is a robotics community that prepares young people for the future through a suite of inclusive, team-based robotics programs for ages 4-18 (PreK-12) that can be facilitated in school or in structured after-school programs. Boosted by a global support system of volunteers, educators, and sponsors that include over 200 of the *Fortune* 500 companies, teams operate under a signature set of [*FIRST* Core Values] to conduct research, fundraise, design, build, and showcase their achievements during annual challenges. An international not-for-profit organization founded by accomplished inventor Dean Kamen in 1989, *FIRST* has a [proven impact] on STEM learning, interest, and skill-building well beyond high school. [Alumni] of *FIRST* programs gain access to exclusive scholarships, internships, and other opportunities that create connections and open pathways to a wide variety of careers. Learn more at [firstinspires.org].

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