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LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT DURING LOS ANGELES' MOST-ATTENDED ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Teams from Los Angeles, Goleta, Atascadero and Hawaii Advance to Championship, Others Win Honors for Design, Sportsmanship, Partnership

LOS ANGELES – – Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the *FIRST*® (**F**or **I**nspiration and **R**ecognition of **S**cience and **T**echnology) Robotics Los Angeles Regional Competition sponsored by the Roddenberry Foundation awarded several teams with honors that rewarded design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the Long Beach Arena March 21st-23rd, 65 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.

Three teams from Los Angeles County will be advancing to the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis in April. Team 1515, from Beverly Hills High School won the highest award in the competition, the Regional Chairman's Award. Team 1836 from Los Angeles came away as Regional Champions and Team 4501, from Santa Monica, won the Rookie All Star Award and Rookie Highest Seed Award.

Two students, Emma Dumont and Isabel Martos-Repath, from Burbank and La Crescenta respectively were awarded the coveted Dean's List Finalist Award and will also go on to compete at the World Championship for the FIRST Dean's List. Emma Dumont, team Captain for Team 980, is also known for her role as Melanie Segal in the ABC Family Show, Bunheads. Dedicated mentor from NASA / JPL, David Brinza, and won the highly regarded Woodie Flowers Finalist Award and will also be eligible for the Woodie Flowers Award at World Championships.

"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 *FIRST*® Robotics Los Angeles Regional Competition sponsored by the Roddenberry Foundation Awards include:

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

Regional Chairman's Award** (*highest award of the competition*) - Team 1515 from Beverly Hills High School in Beverly Hills, CA

Engineering Inspiration Award** (second highest award of competition) - Team 3880 from Kealakehe in Kailua-Kona, HI

Regional Champions** - Team 1717 from Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy in Goleta, CA; Team 973 from Atascadero High School in Atascadero, CA; Team 1836 from Milken Community High School in Los Angeles, CA

Rookie All-Star Award** (highest rookie award) - Team 4501 from New Roads School in Santa Monica, CA

Additional Awards:

Woodie Flowers Finalist Award - David Brinza, mentor for Team 980 in Burbank, CA

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award - Mark Abrams, from Los Angeles, CA

Regional Finalists - Teams 599 from Granada Hills Charter High School in Granada Hills, 3512 from Orcutt Academy High School in Orcutt, CA and 981 from Frazier Mountain High in Lebec, CA

Chrysler Team Spirit Award - Team 4276 from Marina High School, in Huntington Beach, CA

Excellence in Engineering Award sponsored by Delphi - Team 3512 from Orcutt Academy High School in Orcutt, CA

General Motors Industrial Design Award - Team 3309 from Servite HS & Connelly HS & Rosary HS in Anaheim, CA

Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism Award - Team 2576 from Santiago, Chile

Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award - Team 597 from Foshay Learning Center, in Los Angeles, CA

Motorola Quality Award - Team 207 from Centinela Valley Union High School District in Hawthorne, CA

Automation Innovation in Control Award - Team 696 from Clark Magnet High School in La Crescenta, CA

XEROX Creativity Award - Team 980 from John Burroughs High School in Burbank, CA

Highest Rookie Seed Award - Team 4501 from New Roads School in Santa Monica, CA

Imagery Award - Team 974 from Marymount High School in Los Angeles, CA

Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award - Team 597 from Foshay Learning Center, in Los Angeles, CA

Rookie Inspiration Award - Team 4574 from Sunny Hills High School in Fullerton, CA

Judges' Award - Team 4201 from Da Vinci Science in Hawthorne, 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 $14 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC®) andFIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC®) for high-school students, FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL®) for 9 to 14-yearolds, (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.

ABOUT THE RODDENBERRY FOUNDATION
As the title sponsor for the Los Angeles Regional, The Roddenberry Foundation is helping FIRST to expand new frontiers in science and technology education and helping youth to reach their full potential. The Roddenberry Foundation funds innovative solutions to critical global issues in the areas of science and technology, the environment, education and humanitarian advances.
http://roddenberryfoundation.org/

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