



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM CAPITAL REGION AND BEYOND SET TO SHOWCASE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SKILLS IN *FIRST*® ROBOTICS COMPETITION GAME, “*FIRST STRONGHOLD*™”

Students Learn Problem Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors from local Corporations and Education institutions to participate at New York Tech Valley Regional March 17-19.

Troy, New York, March 17, 2016] — High-school students from the Capital Region, six states, and countries including Canada, China, and the Netherlands 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 (www.firstinspires.org). This week, at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the East Campus Athletic Village, 36 teams of students and engineering and technical mentors will demonstrate their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills. The teams 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 in 1989, *FIRST* was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. The *FIRST* Robotics Competition anticipates over 3,100 teams in the U.S. and 24 countries worldwide to compete in 53 Regional Events and 65 District Events. More than 1500 students will compete at the New York Tech Valley Regional to earn a spot at the Championship to be held April 27-30 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo.

In *FIRST STRONGHOLD*™, two Alliances of three robots each are on a Quest to breach their opponents’ fortifications, weaken their tower with boulders, and capture the opposing tower. Robots score points by breaching opponents’ defenses and scoring boulders through goals in the opposing tower. During the final 20 seconds of the Quest, robots may surround and scale the opposing tower to capture it.

“*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.”

“*FIRST* gives students the opportunity to learn about science and engineering in a way that is interactive, educational and inspiring,” said Dr. Thomas Caulfield, GLOBALFOUNDRIES Fab 8 Senior VP and General Manager, and Chairman of the New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Executive Advisory Board. “The technical, leadership, presentation and collaboration skills that kids learn through *FIRST* are so critical to careers in the technical field, and certainly for advanced manufacturers like us, which is why GLOBALFOUNDRIES dedicates its time, resources, and expertise to support this valuable program. It truly prepares our next generation for the careers available in a 21st century marketplace.”

This season, participating *FIRST* students are eligible to apply for more than \$25 million in scholarships being made available by nearly 200 scholarship providers.

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.

FIRST Robotics Competition New York Tech Valley Regional Sponsors and Volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area, including Bechtel, GE, NASA, National Grid, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, GLOBALFOUNDRIES and a GLOBALFOUNDRIES- ed coalition of companies including ASML, KLA Tencor, M+W Group, Mattson Technologies Inc, Turner Construction Company, AMAT, Lam Research, SCREEN USA, Wonik IPS, Edwards Vacuum and PDF Solutions. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers.

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 \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*® Robotics Competition for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*® Tech Challenge for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*® LEGO® League for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*® LEGO® League Jr. 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*, visit: www.firstinspires.org

About New York Tech Valley *FIRST*®

New York Tech Valley *FIRST* is a regional office of *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The New York Tech Valley Regional is in its third year providing access to *FIRST* programs for youth across New York Tech Valley Communities thanks to the sponsorship of NASA, General Electric, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, National Grid, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a GLOBALFOUNDRIES led coalition of companies including ASML, KLA Tencor, M+W Group, Mattson Technology, Applied Materials, Lam Research, Turner Construction Company, SCREEN USA, Wonik IPS, Edwards Vacuum, PDF Solutions. To learn more about New York Tech Valley *FIRST*, visit: www.firsttechvalley.org

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