

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

***Capital Region Students To Compete in “Recycle Rush” at the
2015 New York Tech Valley FIRST® Robotics Competition
March 20th – 21st***

FIRST Robotics Competition Takes STEM Out of the Classroom and Into the Ring

***Thirty-six FIRST Robotics teams from across the Northeast
will put their STEM skill into practice at the
2015 New York Tech Valley FIRST Robotics Competition***

TROY – For the second year running, the 2015 New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Robotics Competition will be held at the East Campus Athletic Village of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on March 20th - 21st. Teams from across New York State, the Northeast and Canada will gather to put their technical, creative, engineering and collaboration skills to the test and vie for the opportunity to compete for the *FIRST* Robotics World Championship in St. Louis.

The *FIRST* Robotics Competition Regional event is brought to New York Tech Valley by NASA and major Co-Sponsors including General Electric, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, M+W Group, National Grid, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Time Warner Cable and a growing number of additional supporters.

The competition effectively takes STEM initiatives out of the classroom, and affords students a hands-on forum to apply their skills. *FIRST* offers high school students an opportunity to experience the excitement and rewards of science, math and technology through an intense creative process that culminates in a thrilling, sports-like competition. Working with teachers and professional engineers, teams have only six weeks to build original, remote-controlled robots

for the riveting, two-minute elimination matches. This year's game, called "**Recycle Rush**," is a recycling-themed game played by two Alliances of three robots 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* Robotics goal is to give young learners hands-on experience in engineering that often launches careers and leads to a lifelong passion. The work that these students do is nothing short of remarkable, and it's thanks to the support of our sponsors, mentors, and the hundreds of volunteers who make this competition possible," said Elliott Masie, President and CEO of the MASIE Center and Honorary Co-Chair of New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Advisory Board. "I'd like to extend thanks to everyone who has made this great initiative possible. Without their support, we would not be able to offer this incredibly valuable experience and opportunity to students throughout Tech Valley and beyond."

WHO: 36 high school *FIRST* Robotics teams and mentors
1,800 students
200+ volunteers

WHAT: A high tech sporting event. It's the *FIRST* Robotics Competition for high school students.

Storytelling Opportunities and Photo Opportunities Include:

- Students testing, tuning up and competing with robots of their own creation
- Coaches/mentors guiding the teams throughout the day
- Student operated robots stacking totes and recycling containers.
- Mentors, referees, judges, mascots, cheering and fans

WHERE: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
ECAV Arena
Peoples Drive,
Troy, NY 12180

WHEN: The 2015 New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Robotics Competition will take place over three days: Practice matches March 19; competition matches March 20-21.

Invited Speakers: *Both Friday and Saturday morning opening ceremonies will feature VIP speakers from each of the sponsoring organizations and local government dignitaries.*

Friday: RPI, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, National Grid, FIRST, and Declaration on behalf of Senator Gillibrand (TBD).

Saturday: RPI, General Electric, Congressman Tonko (TBD)

Full Event Schedule:

Thursday, March 19

Noon to 6 p.m.: Practice Matches (no competition rounds)

Friday, March 20

8:30 a.m.: Opening Ceremonies

9 a.m. to Noon: Qualification Matches

1 to 5:45 p.m.: Qualification Matches

5:45 to 6:30 p.m.: Awards Ceremony

Saturday, March 21

8: 30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies

9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: Qualification Matches

1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Final Rounds

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.: Awards Ceremony

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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.