



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT DURING NEW YORK TECH VALLEY *FIRST*® ROBOTICS COMPETITION**

*Teams from Schuylerville NY, Hudson NY, Trumansburg, NY, Potsdam, NY, Waialua, HI, Quebec, and China Advance to Championship. Others Win Honors for Design, Sportsmanship, and Entrepreneurship*

Troy, NY - Attended by thousands of fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the *FIRST*® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition New York Tech Valley Regional awarded several teams with honors that rewarded design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship and high impact partnerships between schools, businesses and communities. Held at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute East Campus Athletic Village (ECAV) arena on March 17-19, the 36 high school student teams competed to earn a spot at the *FIRST* Championship, held April 27-30, 2016, in St. Louis, Mo.

With the hope of winning one of the several coveted awards, high school students worked with professional Mentors from local Corporations and Educational Institutions 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.

In *FIRST STRONGHOLD*<sup>SM</sup>, 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.

"This year, Tech Valley *FIRST* was proud to support 17 teams by awarding \$75,000 in grants and enabling them to participate in the 2016 *FIRST STRONGHOLD* competition," said Dr. Thomas Caulfield, GLOBALFOUNDRIES Fab 8 Senior Vice President and General Manager and Chairman of the New York Tech Valley *FIRST* Executive Advisory Board. "GLOBALFOUNDRIES is proud to have been a part of that effort, together with more than a dozen business partners, who are supporting STEM education through *FIRST* with a combined \$500,000 donation over the next three years."

Students participating in *FIRST* are eligible to apply for over \$25 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. Students who participate show increased interest in pursuing internship and employment opportunities in science and engineering, especially with companies that are involved with *FIRST*.

Winners of the *FIRST* Robotics Competition 2016 New York Tech Valley Regional Awards include:

**Regional Chairman's Award\*\*:** Team 229 – Division by Zero, Potsdam, NY

**Engineering Inspiration Award\*\*:** Team 3990 – Tech for Kids, Montréal, QC, Canada:

**Woodie Flowers Finalist Award:** Steve Schlegel, Head Mentor of Team 3003 – TAN[X]

**Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award:** Event Co-Chair Paul Schoch and Planning Committee Member Jim Cummins

**Dean's List Finalists:** Amanda Horne – Team 250, Colonie, NY and Sophia Sugarman – Team 4856, New York, NY

**Regional Champions\*\*:** Team 359 – Hawaiian Kids, Waialua, HI; Team 3990 – Tech for Kids, Montréal, QC, Canada; Team 4508 – Nuts and Bolts, Schuylerville, NY

**Regional Finalists:** Team 5254 – Robot Raiders, Trumansburg, NY; Team 20 – The Rocketeers, Clifton Park, NY; Team 229 – Division by Zero, Potsdam, NY; Team 1665 – Weapons of Mass Construction, Hudson, NY

**Regional Wildcards\*\*:** Team 5254 – Robot Raiders, Trumansburg, NY; Team 1665 – Weapons of Mass Construction, Hudson, NY

**Rookie All-Star Award\*\*:** Team 5879 – Shadow of Orion, Beijing, China

**Chrysler Team Spirit Award:** Team 3044 – OxBE4, Ballston Spa, NY

**General Motors Industrial Design Award:** Team 5254 – Robot Raiders, Trumansburg, NY

**Johnson & Johnson Gracious Professionalism Award:** Team 20 – The Rocketeers, Clifton Park, NY

**Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers Entrepreneurship Award:** Team 48 – Delphi E.L.I.T.E., Warren, OH

**Motorola Quality Award:** Team 2791 – Shaker Robotics, Latham, NY

**Rockwell Automation Innovation in Control Award:** Team 359 – Hawaiian Kids, Waialua, HI

**Delphi Excellence in Engineering Award:** Team 3003 – TAN[X], Canandaigua, NY

**XEROX Creativity Award:** Team 3419 – The RoHawks, New York, NY

**Highest Rookie Seed Award:** Team 5964 – The Praetorians, Voorheesville, NY

**Imagery Award:** Team 4481 – Team Rembrandts, Eindhoven, NB, Netherlands

**Underwriters Laboratories Industrial Safety Award:** Team 48 – Delphi E.L.I.T.E., Warren, OH

**Rookie Inspiration Award:** Team 5943 – Bad News Gears, Carmel, NY

**Judges' Award:** Team 250 – The Dynamos, Colonie, NY

***\*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 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*, go to [www.firstinspires.org](http://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, Bechtel, 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, nrastructure, PDF Solutions. To learn more about New York Tech Valley *FIRST*, go to [www.firsttechvalley.org](http://www.firsttechvalley.org)

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