



PRESS RELEASE

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TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL T-BOTS TEAM
RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT
DURING DALLAS EAST REGIONAL COMPETITION

Texarkana, TX – Attended by fans, families, educators and industry leaders, the FIRST Robotics Competition Dallas Regional, sponsored by JCPenney, awarded the Texas High School T-BOTS (Tigers Building Outstanding Technology Systems) with several honors for student leadership, academic excellence and sportsmanship. The event was held on March 30-31 at the Dallas Convention Center. Over 81 high school teams competed to earn a spot at the FIRST Championship to be held in April.

THS T-BOTS consistently scored in the autonomous mode (without driver control) during the “Rebound Rumble” games allowing them to place 12th overall in the East Field competition. The challenge offered contestants the opportunity to compete against other “Alliances” on a flat field. Each Alliance consisted of three robots that competed to score as many basketballs into their hoops as possible during a 2 minute and 15 second match. The higher the hoop in which the basketball was scored, the more points the Alliance received.

T-BOTS were also awarded the Judges’ Award for their efforts in student leadership, supporting the FIRST community and according to the judges, “total awesomeness.”

Chief Financial Officer for the T-BOTS team and current THS junior, Krista Petty, was one of two students selected as a FIRST Dean’s List Finalist for her exemplary passion and effectiveness in achieving FIRST’s mission. She will compete in the FIRST Championship in St. Louis to be named one of the Dean’s List Superstars.

Additionally, the T-BOTS were recognized for their sportsmanship in coming to the aid of a fellow competition team who had all tools and equipment stolen during a theft at their school in January. Learning of their situation, the

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THS T-BOTS pooled personal funds together to purchase a Home Depot gift card so that the team could rebuild and be ready to compete in this year's competition.

Prior to the competition weekend, the T-BOTS were honored by being selected as the only team to present during the FIRST VIP Luncheon which included executives from JCPenney, Texas Workforce Commission, Greater Texas Foundation, Raytheon, Siemens, Lockheed Martin, Link Simulation & Training, DeVry University, Mouser Electronics and Time Warner Cable. Representing the T-BOTS was Chief Executive Officer of the team and THS junior, Logan Porter. Logan shared her experiences within the STEM program at Texas High School and how the FIRST program is changing the lives of students and the future of engineering. Guest speaker for the luncheon was Andres Alcantar, Commissioner for the Texas Workforce Commission.

The THS T-BOTS are sponsored through funding from JC Penney and AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company.

FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication and leadership.

Team members for the Texas High School T-BOTS Robotics Team are: Cortlandt Bursey-Reece, Matthew Crawford, Celeste Dart, Selwin George, Kenneth Harris, Steven Jacob, Kasandra Langworthy, Brian Lee, Kendall Link, Jonathan Luna, Clay Miller, Ryan Peavy, Christian Pennington, Krista Petty, Logan Porter, Desiree Smith, Zierre Spencer, Caleb Strutton, Robert Tidwell, Alex Walker and Josh Whitehorn. Staff Mentors include: Brandon Burnett, Trent Hanna, Mark Patrick, Seth Schirmer and Nathan Upchurch.

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