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News

Shawnee, OKC and Frederick Teams Win at Robotics State Championship Event Held at SWOSU

Teams from Shawnee, Oklahoma City and Frederick fared well at the recent 2020 FTC Oklahoma State Robotics Championship held February 22 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Pioneer Cellular Event Center in Weatherford.

Forty teams from around the state of Oklahoma competed, and four teams will advance to the World Finals April 15-18 in Houston (TX).

Atomic Gears from Shawnee won first place and the Inspire Award. Finishing second was Revolutionary Robotics of Oklahoma City and third place winner was Cybernetics of Frederick. Winning the Alliance Award—a competition between robots on the field—was LIGHTSABERS of Oklahoma City. All four teams will advance to the World Finals.

Finishing second in the Alliance competition was Revolutionary Robotics of Oklahoma City and Mouse Spit of Tulsa.

Elizabeth Say of RoboComets of Tulsa, Micah Popejoy of LIGHTSABERS of Oklahoma City and Mason Matray of Blanchard were all named FIRST Dean's List finalists as outstanding student leaders whose passion for and effectiveness at attaining *FIRST* ideals is exemplary. The students were nominated by their teams for their direct contributions and impact on others —exemplifying leadership and commitment, on their *FIRST* Tech Challenge team, in their school and in their community.

Cindy White of Atomic Gears of Shawnee, Kyler Smith of Project Peacock of Tulsa and Marty Martin of Revolutionary Robotics of Oklahoma City won Compass awards. The award recognizes an adult coach or mentor who provided outstanding guidance and support for a *FIRST* Tech Challenge team throughout the year. The winner of the Compass Award is determined from candidates nominated by student team members, via a 40-60 second video, highlighting how their mentor has helped them become an outstanding team and has truly demonstrated what it means to be a gracious professional.

Cybernetics of Frederick, Revolutionary Robotics of Oklahoma City and Atomic Gears of Shawnee finished first, second and third, respectively for the Promote Award. The award is given to the team that is most successful in creating a compelling video message for the public designed to change the culture and celebrate science, technology, engineering and math.

Team Medusa of Newcastle, Revolutionary Robotics of Oklahoma City and LIGHTSABERS of Oklahoma City finished first through third, respectively, for the Control Award. Sponsored by Arm, Inc., the award celebrates the team that demonstrates innovative thinking in the control system to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, enhancing mechanical systems with intelligent control or using sensors to achieve better results on the field.

Bison bison of Oklahoma City, Midnight Ostrich Runners of Broken Arrow and Turpinators of Turpin were the top three, respectively, for the Motivate Award. The award celebrates the team that represents the essence of the *FIRST* Tech Challenge competition through team building, team spirit and displayed enthusiasm.

LIGHTSABERS of Oklahoma City, Team Medusa of Newcastle and RoboComets of Tulsa were first, second and third, respectively, for the Design Award, which expands on this year's challenge, inspiring teams to incorporate industrial design into their robots. These elements can be shown in the simplicity of the design as it applies to the tasks, the look and feel of the robot in how the design allows people to think of robots in new ways. The design aspect must serve a function – but they should also differentiate the robot in a unique fashion.

Project Peacock of Tulsa, Commandrobots of Tulsa and Prototypes of Newcastle were the top three, respectively, in the Collins Aerospace Innovate Award, celebrating the teams that have the ingenuity and inventiveness to make their designs come to life. The award is given to the team that the judges feel has the most innovative and creative robot design solution to the *FIRST* Tech Challenge game.

Cybernetics of Frederick, System Overload of Frederick and Mouse Spit of Tulsa were the top three winners in the Connect Award competition. The award is presented to the team that the judges' feel most connected with their local science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) community.

Revolutionary Robots of Oklahoma City, System Overload of Frederick and Y-Not Robots of Ada finished one-two-three, respectively, for the Think Award, which is given to the team that the judges feel best reflects the journey of the engineering design process.

This year's game, SKYSTONE presented by Qualcomm, was a Star Wars themed event. The students in grades 7-12 designed, built and programmed a robot to move blocks from a construction zone to a building zone under skybridges. They created a structure that pushed into the skies to build a superstructure of the future.

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