

SWOSU Hosting First Robotics Competition This Saturday

11.30.2009

The FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Regional Robotics Competition will be held this Saturday, December 5, on the Weatherford campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

This Saturday's event in the SWOSU Wellness Center is the first FTC-sanctioned event to be held in Oklahoma. Twenty-six high school teams from Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas have registered for the robotics competition.

Brad Fitzgerald, director of the SWOSU event, said the teams will build and program a robot to compete in the tournament. The robots must be able to pick up balls and shoot them into goals to score points. The public is invited, and Fitzgerald said the best time for the public to visit the competition will be around 1 p.m.

SWOSU and the Computer Science and Engineering Technology Departments teamed with FIRST, an international non-profit organization founded by inventor Dean Kamen, to inspire young people and their interest and participation in science and technology by hosting the regional competition this Saturday.

The 26 teams that have registered for the SWOSU event include: Taloga, Western Heights, Union City, Ponca City (four teams), Stillwater (two teams), Kingfisher, Preston, Sapulpa (two teams), Konawa, Bristow, Tulsa Memorial, Altus, Muskogee (two teams), Salina, Poteau, Red Rock, Newton KS (two teams) and San Antonio TX (two teams).

Two teams from the SWOSU competition will be invited to attend the national competition in April, 2010, in Atlanta.

For more information about the upcoming event, contact Fitzgerald at 580.774.3161 or brad.fitzgerald@swosu.edu.