



◆NEWS RELEASE◆

**BOISE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM WINS FIRST PLACE
AT UTAH *FIRST* ROBOTICS REGIONAL EVENT**

Salt Lake City, UT -- 04/12/2011 -- On Saturday, April 9, 2011, Boise School District's *FIRST* Robotics Team, Team Tators, won first place at the 2011 Utah *FIRST* Robotics Regional Event. Team Tators participated in the event as defending champions, having won the same event in 2010. Team Tators competes in *FIRST* Robotics as Team #2122.

Team Tators, with their robot, Tator Bot, performed impressively throughout the three days of competition. The team was the only participating team out of the thirty to compete in the Utah Regionals to remain undefeated throughout the competition.

In March, 2011, Team Tators also competed in the Seattle Cascade Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition where the team finished on the second place alliance. At both Regional Competitions, Team Tators was recognized with the Quality Award sponsored by Motorola. This award is given in celebration of the robot that demonstrates robustness in both concept and fabrication.

As a result of the team's impressive performance, the team members and Tator Bot will now travel to the *FIRST* Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, MO. The Championship Events are held from April 27 - 30, 2011. In the 2010 competition, Team Tators finished as semifinalists for their division in the 2010 *FIRST* Robotics World Championships that were held in Atlanta, GA., ending their season among the top 25 of over 320 top robots from around the world. The team looks forward to this year's challenges as they once again face the top 341 robotics teams from around the world.

“We are extremely proud of our students and everyone involved in this year’s Team Tators program,” said Dr. **Holly MacLean**, Principal of Boise School District’s Treasure Valley Mathematics & Science Center (TVMSC), and one of the team’s organizers. “To take home the first place trophy in this very competitive regional competition speaks volumes about the efforts of all involved.”

Team Tators is grateful for the sponsorship and support provided by Hewlett-Packard Company, Micron Foundation, Inc., the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Inc., M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, and the Jeker Family Trust for the team.

Students participating on the Boise School District's 2011 *FIRST* Robotics Team include:

Jason Kim - Boise High
James Kweon - Boise High
ChongMin Park - TVMSC and East
Emanuil Yanev - Rocky Mountain High
Conor Mooney - TVMSC and Capital High
Jacob Buckley - TVMSC and Capital High
Marcus Beall - TVMSC and Boise High
Avi Steiner - Boise High
Yoon-Su Ra - Boise High
Miguel Alvarez - Bishop Kelly High
Nicholai Cascio - Skyview High
Braden King - TVMSC and Capital High
Gerardo Rodriguez - Orellano - TVMSC and Rocky Mountain High
Sergio Rodriguez - Orellano - TVMSC and Riverglen Jr. High
Kenneth Prouty - TVMSC and home schooled
Kyle Hartman - TVMSC and Riverglen Jr. High
Jing Xu - TVMSC and Boise High
Ethan Stine - Boise High
Taylor Jones - Centennial High
Morgan Urie - Borah High
Mauston Beauchaine - TVMSC and Capital High
Michael Lee - Boise High
Leo Wibbels - Boise High
Matthew Vaughan - Bishop Kelly High

This is the fifth year of competition for Team Tators. The robotics team first competed in 2007, earning recognition as the Highest Rookie Seed that year. Since then, Team Tators has earned the opportunity to compete at the Championships in the 2011, 2010 and 2008 competition years.

In previous years, Team Tators has earned special recognition as the recipients of the Xerox Creativity Award (2008), Motorola Quality Award (2009, 2011), and the Industrial Design Award sponsored by General Motors (2010). The team has also been Regional Finalists in 2009, 2010 and 2011 events and Regional Champions in 2008, 2010, and 2011 events.

Team Tators meets year around, holding off-season sessions to train and recruit new team members. During the off-season, students and mentors develop skills and competency in the use of CAD, programming, prototype design and the safe use of heavy machinery for constructing the robot's components.

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 three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$14 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*[®] Robotics Competition (FRC[®]) and *FIRST*[®] Tech Challenge (FTC[®]) for high-school students, *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League (FLL[®]) for 9 to 14-year-olds, (9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S. and Canada) and Junior *FIRST*[®] LEGO[®] League (Jr.FLL[™]) for 6 to 9-year-olds. 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.

Through their participation in *FIRST* Robotics, students are able to apply for \$14 million in student scholarships. *FIRST* Robotics also provides high school students an outstanding opportunity to work with dedicated mentors from engineering and technology fields. It reinforces within students 'Gracious Professionalism,' a strong work ethic and the value of team work. All students graduating from the Boise team go on to pursue studies in fields relating to engineering, programming, technology and industry each year. Several of these students have also benefitted from receiving *FIRST* Robotics scholarships.

For more information about *FIRST* Robotics and the World Championship Event, please visit <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/frc/content.aspx?id=432>

For information on how you can offer donations in support of Team Tators, please contact Treasure Valley Math & Science Center (208) 854-6800 or visit Boise Public Schools Education Foundation at <http://www.boiseschoolsfoundation.com/>. Donations can be made through PayPal, with designations made for TVMSC/Robotics Team.



Boise School District's *FIRST* Robotics Team proudly displays the first place banner and trophy won at the Utah *FIRST* Robotics Regional Event held April 7-9, 2011 in Salt Lake City, UT.