



PRESS RELEASE

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WHO: Manufacturing professionals and area educators

WHAT: Teaming up for Southwestern PA's 9th Annual BotsIQ Competition, an event that provides high school students with the skills for a future career in manufacturing, an industry that faces critical workforce shortfalls

WHEN: Preliminaries: March 14 & 15, 2014
Finals: April 25 & 26, 2014

WHERE: Preliminaries: Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood, PA
Finals: California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA

Pittsburgh, PA (February 18, 2014) — Students from across southwestern Pennsylvania are gearing up for the most fierce BotsIQ competition yet. With a record breaking 72 teams competing from 51 different schools, the winning robot will have to be more than a good design. It will have to be strong, agile and innovative. With the students so keenly focused on success in the ring, they may not be aware that they are acquiring skills for careers in the manufacturing sector— an industry in desperate need of skilled workers. Southwestern PA BotsIQ is a manufacturing workforce development program disguised as a high school robotics competition.

Faced with an aging manufacturing workforce, The Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association (NTMA) spearheaded efforts to bring a national student robotics program to the Pittsburgh region in 2005. Local manufacturers and educators joined forces, and with just 6 schools, launched BotsIQ. The program has exploded to nearly nine times its original size and now boasts its own fan base. Southwestern Pennsylvania students learn to design, build and battle robots in a gladiator-style competition. The competition draws on students' knowledge of math, science, engineering and even public speaking. Past participants have immediately entered the industry, gone on to technical school or earned associates or bachelors degrees leading to professional positions in manufacturing. These manufacturing positions earn an average salary 17% above the southwestern Pennsylvania mean salary.

Preliminary rounds are scheduled for March 14 and 15, 2014 at Westmoreland County Community College's Founders Hall in Youngwood, PA. Finals will be at California University of Pennsylvania's Convocation Center on April 25 and 26, 2014.

Admission is free. The public is invited and encouraged to attend both the preliminary and final rounds of the competition. For volunteer opportunities visit www.BotsIQpa.org.

Competing in 2014:

Admiral Peary AVTS
Albert Gallatin Senior HS
Baldwin HS
Beaver County CTC
Bedford HS
Brownsville Area HS
Burgettstown Area Middle/HS
Butler Intermediate HS
Central Valley HS

Chartiers Valley HS
Clairton HS
Connellsville Area CTC
Connellsville Area HS
Derry Area HS
Eastern Westmoreland CTC*
Forbes Road CTC*
Fox Chapel Area HS
Frazier HS
Freedom Area HS
Greater Latrobe Senior HS
Greene County CTC
Greensburg Salem HS
Hempfield Area HS

Highlands HS
Keystone Oaks HS
Kiski Area HS
Lenape Tech
Norwin HS
Penn Hills HS
Penns Manor HS
Pittsburgh Perry HS
Pittsburgh Science & Tech. Academy
Plum HS
Propel CS - Braddock Hills
Punxsutawney Area HS
Ringgold HS
Riverview Jr/Sr HS

Serra Catholic HS
Somerset Co. Tech. Center
South Fayette HS
Southmoreland HS
South Park HS
Steel Valley HS
The Kiski School
West Greene HS
West Mifflin Area HS
Western Area CTC
Western PA School for the Deaf
Windber Area HS
Woodland Hills HS
Yough Senior HS

*indicates 9 year participation

For more information, contact Bill Padnos at (412) 258-6629 or (412) 477-3663 or check out BotsIQ on the web at: www.BotsIQpa.org

**** photos available upon request**

