



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TEAM "ROBOTUX" ADVANCES TO EAST SUPER REGIONAL

Founder Dean Kamen once described the *For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology* (FIRST) Tech Challenge as a "sport for the mind." The challenge is a robotics competition for students in grades 7 - 12. FIRST was founded by Kamen, an inventor himself, with the hope that it would inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology.

A team sport, Holmdel's Team Robotux is one of 171 teams to engage in competitions in New Jersey this year and was one of forty-eight that made it to the state finals, known as the "Garden State Rumble," held at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North this past Sunday. Each team is made up of no more than ten students who together are responsible for designing, building and programming a robot to compete in alliances with other teams against other alliances. Teams are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles.



With a win at the state competition, Principal Bill Loughran suggested that the members of Team Robotux are "elite" athletes in their sport. As a result of their victory this week, the team earned one of nine New Jersey-designated positions at the Eastern Super-Regional Championships to be held at the University of Scranton the weekend of March 17<sup>th</sup>. Teams for the Eastern Super-Regionals come from twelve eastern states with twenty five teams heading from there to the Nationals being held this year in St. Louis.

"The study of Engineering has had a long but silent history at Holmdel High School," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert McGarry. "With the appointment of a K-12 Supervisor of Technology, Engineering and Media Centers, and the creation of its first course in Engineering and Design Principles, the district took a major step forward in preparing students for success in these competitions as well as in post-secondary studies in Engineering and Design," he added.

Holmdel's Team Robotux is made up of Gabby DeGregorio, Aditya Dharap, Kevin Franchi, Ayan Gupta, Christine Kim, Jessica Kuleshov and Ben Ling.