



For Immediate Release

Robotics Championship Lures Nearly 500 Students

Students from 14 different cities will compete with & against each other.

San Antonio, TX – With the state of Texas focusing on student robotics programs through increased funding, San Antonio is at the center for helping the state with its goals. This Sunday (March 21), nearly 500 kids will convene at the AT&T Center to participate in the Alamo FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Championship tournament, hosted by Northwest Vista College's Texas Institute for Educational Robotics or TIER.

Area middle and high school students have formed teams to design build and program a robot to compete in the event. The opening ceremony at 10:30 a.m. features comments by Ann Stevens, president of BioMed SA, with the games beginning at 11 a.m. Awards will be handed out at 5 p.m. with closing remarks by Dr. C. Mauli Agrawal, dean of the College of Engineering at UTSA.

What makes this event unique is that:

- San Antonio is the second city to host three major robotics events for students.
- The Texas Workforce Commission is offering robotics grants to schools and this event is an ideal place for educators to talk with teachers and students about their own robotics programs.
- Teams will be divided into two Divisions at the event which will be named after San Antonio scientists Dr. Susan Naylor of the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and Col. Francis X. Kane, PhD, a retiree of the United States Air Force.
- Dr. Naylor was part of the team to complete the decoding of the human DNA Genome.
- Dr. Kane, also known as the father of military GPS, was recently inducted into the Air Force Space and Missile Pioneers Hall of Fame. He wrote letters letter of support when funding was being sought for the SpaceTEAMS robotics summer camp program at NVC. He was also a guest speaker at the first camp in 2006.
- Dr. Kane may make an appearance at the March 21 event.

The event is free and open to the public. There is no charge for parking. For more information on the event, contact TIER director Andrew Schuetze at (210) 837 – 1958 mobile phone.

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Alamo Colleges - Northwest Vista College opened in 1995 with 12 students. Currently enrollment exceeds 14,000 students pursuing associate degrees and certificates, as well as transferring to four-year institutions. Located at 3535 N. Ellison Drive, next to SeaWorld San Antonio, Northwest Vista College's expanding agreements with business and higher education partnerships provide a wealth of opportunities for students and the community.