



Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program
4800 SW Griffith Drive, Suite 215
Beaverton, OR 97005
www.ortop.org

Contacts: **Bruce Schafer, Executive Director, Cell: 503-332-4666, Bruce-Schafer@ortop.org**
Cathy Swider, Senior Program Manager, Desk: (503) 486-7622 x102, Cathy-Swider@ortop.org

Oregon Robotics Teams Win Big at 12-State FTC West Super-Regional Championship

Oakland, California, March 28, 2016: The Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP) is pleased to announce that Oregon teams did well at the *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) West Super-Regional Championship held at the Oakland, California Convention Center from March 24-26, 2016. 15 Oregon robotics teams made up of middle and high school were among 72 teams representing 12 western states. During the winter season each team designed and built a custom robot to compete in this year's challenge called RES-Q. **Seven of the Oregon teams, including three from Southern Oregon,** will go on to compete at the **FIRST Tech Challenge World Championship** in St. Louis, MO on April 27-30, 2016. The number of Oregon teams advancing is particularly impressive given that only 24 teams from the 12-state region advanced. **Oregon teams represent 29% of the teams advancing while it has less than 6% of the population of the region.**

ORTOP offers the *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) program to help students in grades 7 through 12 begin exploring technical careers, and Oregon boasts one of the largest *FIRST* Tech Challenge programs in the nation with 186 teams. Each team is comprised of up to fifteen students who start the season in the fall by designing and programming a unique robot using a standard kit plus other parts that they purchase or create. The 2015-2016 game, RES-Q, is modeled after rescue situations faced by mountain explorers all over the globe. Played by two alliances of two robots each, robots score points by resetting rescue beacons; delivering rescue climbers to a shelter; parking on the mountain; and parking in the rescue beacon repair zone or floor goal. Robots also score points by retrieving debris from the playing field and placing them in mountain or floor goals, and also by hanging from a pull-up bar during the last 30-seconds of a match.

Hot Wired of Westview High School and Spark Technology Education was a member of the three-team **Event Winning Alliance**. The tournament was divided into two divisions – Gold and Silver – with 36 teams in each division. After many qualifying rounds, top-ranked teams in each division formed alliances. Four alliances in each division competed against each other through quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals. The top alliance from each division then competed head-to-head for the Event Winning Alliance of the tournament. Hot Wired was one of the three teams in this Winning Alliance. Hot Wired also took 2nd place in the most prestigious category awarded by the championship judges called Inspire.

The Oregon teams advancing to the World Championship are

Hot Wired	Westview High School and Spark Technology Education, Beaverton	2 nd Place Inspire Award, Member of Event Winning Alliance
C4	St. Mary's School, Medford	Silicon Division Finalist Alliance Captain
Fellowship of the Robot	Lake Oswego Robotics, Lake Oswego	Gold Division Finalist Alliance Captain
Occam's Razor	Hood River Valley HS, Hood River	Gold Division Finalist 1st Selected
Trial N' Terror	St. Mary's School, Medford	Control Award 1 st Place
Klamath Coyotes	Eagle Ridge High School, Klamath Falls	Control Award 2 nd Place
Batteries in Black	Washington Co. 4H, Washington County	Highest ranked team not previously receiving an award

The Control Award celebrates a team that uses sensors and software to enhance the robot's functionality on the field. This award is given to the team that demonstrates innovative thinking in the control system to solve game challenges such as autonomous operation, enhancing mechanical systems with intelligent control, or using sensors to achieve better results on the field.

Keala Cottrell of Portland was one of four people at the event that were awarded Outstanding Volunteer. Her work at the tournament was primarily in the audiovisual area.

For more information on the FTC program go to www.ortop.org/ftc. For contact information for the winning teams please contact one of the people at the top of this release.

ORTOP thanks its generous sponsors for this event, including Rockwell Collins, the presenting sponsor; Garmin, Google and Intel, platinum sponsors; BPA, Daimler, FIRST Tech Federal Credit Union, Garmin, IBM, Oregon Airshow, Phtech, and Vernier, gold sponsors; Business Oregon, ESI, FEI, ONAMI, and Timbercon, silver sponsors; as well as all its supporting sponsors and its many hard-working volunteers.

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