



Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program

2125 SW Fourth Ave. Suite 507

PO Box 751, IAFF

Portland, OR 97207

www.ortop.org

Contacts:

Bruce Schafer, Executive Director, Cell: 503-332-4666, Bruce_Schafer@ortop.org

Chelsea Hossaini, Intel NW Region Communications Manager; Office: 503-264-1330; Chelsea.Hossaini@Intel.com

LEGO® robotics teams from across region receive awards at state championships.

Thousands of youth participate in the program, sparking interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

January 19, 2015: Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP) is pleased to announce the awards received by teams at the fourteenth annual **Intel® Oregon FIRST® LEGO League Championship Tournaments, presented by Rockwell Collins**, held on January 17-18, 2015 at Liberty High School in Hillsboro. This event brought together 117 teams from across the state and region who have excelled in the *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) pre-engineering program, which helps young students explore technical fields and careers at an early age.

"Intel is a proud supporter of the Intel Oregon *FIRST* LEGO League Championship Tournaments—and has been since the inception of the program—because students learn to solve problems through creative solutions while getting hands-on experience in the possibilities of science, technology, engineering and mathematics," said Jill Eiland, Intel's Northwest Region Public Affairs Director. "Supporting and growing future talent in those areas is critical to the continued economic prosperity of Oregon and the U.S."

With the help of its sponsors and their employees, ORTOP has offered FLL for the last 14 years. Each team of 9-14 year olds constructed and programmed their LEGO robot to compete on various robot missions, presented research on this year's theme, and demonstrated their work to three panels of judges. **The theme for this year's tournaments is "World Class, Learning Unleashed"** which prompted each team to tie their technology interests into a contemporary issue, and to research and develop an innovative solution to improving learning and education. In December 2014, over 3300 students on 460 teams participated in qualifying tournaments in our region, the top 25% competed at this weekend's championships.

First place for the Intel Oregon Champion's Award, the most prestigious award of the competition, went to two co-champions: The Lego Legends, a Portland neighborhood team and Team Quantum from Catlin Gabel School in Portland. This award goes to the team who is strongest in three categories: robot design, the research project, and core values. Both champion teams have the opportunity to advance to the FLL World Festival to be held in St. Louis, Missouri in April. In addition to top awards, teams from Oregon and SW Washington received many impressive category awards made possible by Oregon companies. For a list of

the **awards received by teams from all over region** from Vancouver, Washington to Yreka, California as well as photographs go to <http://www.ortop.org/fil/ctawards.htm>.

Winning teams were very proud of their accomplishments and excited for what's next. Some team members already see options opening for their future careers, while others see collaboration to be the greatest lesson of all. The Lego Legend's research project focused on "How can we create an engaged and fun learning environment for elementary students to learn science effectively for a smoother transition to middle school." Based on their experiences on the team both Rishi Alluri and Anshul Arunkumar of the Lego Legends said they wanted to become software engineers. Megha Alluri, Catherine Yaru Lee, and Jasmine Wang all agreed that science, technology, engineering and mathematics provide a "wide variety of interesting careers." Team Quantum focused their research on high tech training for using protective suits for Ebola. When asked what he was most proud of, Avi Gupta emphasized "our ability to come together as a team and achieve what we set out to do." Jacob Bendicksen, an Upper School student at Catlin Gabel who served as one of Team Quantum's coaches said the team had "done an incredible job working together with everyone contributing in their own way."

Bruce Schafer, ORTOP's Executive Director, said "This weekend's teams were so impressive. I have no doubt that Oregon's top future engineers and scientists were among us. Congratulations to all team members and coaches for the many hours preparing for and participating in this weekend's tournaments. Tremendous thanks to our title sponsor, Intel, to all our corporate and community sponsors, and to the hundreds of tireless coaches and volunteers who have helped thousands of students discover their interests in technology."

ORTOP thanks its generous sponsors for this event, including Intel, the title sponsor; Rockwell Collins, the presenting sponsor; Google/Tides Foundation and OUS, platinum sponsors; BPA, Garmin, IBM, Tektronix, Vernier, gold sponsors; ONAMI, phtech, and Timbercon, silver sponsors; as well as all its supporting community sponsors and volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of these sponsors, nearly 30% of this year's teams received a financial support to help them get started or to continue their participation.

For more information on the program go to www.ortop.org/fil.



-- ORTOP --