

NONPROFITS

Day of the climbing robots

Teams of students from 50 regional high schools designed and built robots and then guided them in games of skill at the 14th annual Long Island Regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, held earlier this month at Hofstra University in Hempstead. The goal of the annual program is to foster an interest in science and engineering disciplines.

Over a six-week period leading up to the competition, students worked with professional mentors in building their robots from kits and a standard set of rules. At the event, the student-guided robots went head to head, scoring goals with flying discs and climbing pyramids.



Teams from Hauppauge High School, Westhampton Beach High School and Queens Vocational and Technical High School were declared the three regional winners. The Hauppauge students also won the Regional Chairman's Award, while students from Plainview-Old Bethpage High School took home the Regional Engineering Inspiration Award.

Hosted by Kings Park-based School-Business Partnerships of Long Island Inc., the event counted Motorola Solutions Foundation, Festo Corp., Hofstra, School Construction Consultants Inc., BAE Systems, Northrop Grumman, Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, Schenck Trebel Corp. and Estée Lauder Cos. among its sponsors.

— BERNADETTE STARZEE