TEAMS FROM CANADA, CHINA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PUERTO RICO, SINGAPORE AND UNITED STATES SHINE THE BRIGHTEST AT THE 2012 VEX ROBOTICS COMPETITION WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

More than 10,000 Middle School, High School & College Participants from Nearly 20 Countries Gathered to Compete in the World's Fastest Growing Robotics Movement

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich., April 23, 2012 – The Golden State grew a bit brighter this weekend as more than 10,000 participants comprised of middle school, high school and university students, educators and team mentors from nearly 20 countries around the globe showcased their smarts in the fierce three-day 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship at the Anaheim Convention Center. After the final points were tallied, the winning alliance from each division was comprised of teams from Canada, China, Mexico, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Singapore and the United States, who took home the coveted World Championship trophies.

Six hundred of the nearly 5,000 VEX Robotics Competition teams qualified to face-off in the robot ring against their toughest competitors at this year's VEX Robotics Competition World Championship after battling in more than 300 local, regional and national tournaments around the world during the season. Beginning on Thursday, the global competition kicked off with preliminary qualification rounds. Friday morning, students took part in the opening ceremonies parade of nations, bearing their respective countries' brilliant flags, followed by a series of intense head-to-head matches throughout the afternoon. The festivities reached a crescendo on Saturday as the division champion alliances worked together to defeat their competition in the Finals. Kicking-off the Finals, participants were set aglow by iLuminate, the awe-inspiring dance-in-the-dark sensation that took audiences by storm last summer on the hit television series "America's Got Talent." The performance was led by Miral Kotb, iLuminate founder and software engineer who developed the patent-pending wireless lighting technology.

The Tournament Champion Alliance from the Middle School Division was comprised of team 8066A, Atom, from Singapore; team 5199A, Shanghai Shibei Junior Middle School, from Shanghai, China; and team 2300B, Robinson Middle School B, from San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Tournament Champion Alliance from the High School Division was comprised of team 569, NHRC, from Murrieta, Calif.; team 2900A, SymbiOHsis, from Auckland, New Zealand; and team 2W, Robosavages, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The Tournament Champion from the College Division was team TGTZ1, from La Universidad Tecnológica de Gutierrez Zamora, in Veracruz, Mexico.

In addition, one team from each of the three divisions was presented with an Excellence Award, the highest honor in the VEX Robotics Competition, given to the teams with the most well-rounded VEX Robotics Program. Team 2177, The F.I.V.E, from Oconomowoc, Wis. took home the Middle School Excellence Award; team 3018, Techna Pwn Robotics, from Council Bluffs, Iowa took home the High School Excellence Award; and team TSM1, Semex1, from Tejupilco, Mexico took home the College Division Excellence Award.

"We worked so hard to get here, and our whole team rose to the challenge that was before us in ways we didn't even know were possible," said Vinayak Pillai from team 569, NHRC, part of the High School Division Tournament Champion Alliance from Murrieta, Calif. "Each year VEX Worlds gets bigger, becomes more impressive, and the competition gets fiercer. Even if we didn't win today, this event is something that we will remember for the rest of our lives."

"It is so inspiring to see the high-level of energy, dedication and professionalism that teams from around the world bring into the arena at the VEX Robotics Competition World Championship," said Jason Morrella, president of the Robotics Education and Competition (REC) Foundation. "If the excitement we see each year at the VEX Robotics Competitions is anything compared to these kids' in-classroom fervor for science, technology, engineering and

math, these students are destined to succeed in any STEM related career of their choosing and become the leaders and innovators of our future."

When students were not competing in the robot ring, they had the once-in-a-lifetime the chance to meet Nobel Prize Award Winner and Stanford University Professor Emeritus of Physics, Dr. Douglas D. Osheroff, who was present signing autographs and taking pictures alongside a VEX Claw Bot that held the gold medallion. Attendees were also inspired by replicas of NASA's famous Mars Exploration Rovers Curiosity and Opportunity, which were on display during all three days of the competition. Additionally, FutureLab: The Innovation Expo gave young students hands on learning experiences to encourage them to consider studying scientific and technological ideas and processes involved with nanotechnology, deep space exploration, robotics, alternate energy, virtual reality and human genomics.

For those competitors eager to get a jump on next year's robot designs, the 2012/2013 VEX Robotics Competition game *Sack Attack* was unveiled at the tournament on Saturday afternoon. The object of the game is to attain a higher score than your opponent by picking up colored bean bags and placing them in a scoring trough that runs the length of the field. Robots will also gain points for finishing in designated areas at the end of a match.

Partners and sponsors of the 2012 VEX Robotics Competition World Championship include Autodesk, NASA, EMC Corporation, the Northrop Grumman Foundation, Microchip Technology, intelitek, Robotics Academy at Carnegie Mellon University, Innovation First International, the United States Coast Guard Academy, the Technology Student Association, the CREATE Foundation and the FUTURE Foundation. In addition, VEX Robotics continually reaches students in the classroom through key partnerships with notable education-based organizations, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Technology Students Association (TSA).

In addition to the Excellence Awards and Middle School, High School and College Champion titles, several other technical and value-based awards were presented to the below listed teams and individuals in each program for excelling in the following categories:

- **Excellence:**
    - Team 3018, Techna Pwn Robotics, from Council Bluffs, Iowa
    - Team 1200C, Technical Breakdown, from Neenah, Wisc.
    - Team 1069E, Critical Mass, from Berthoud, Colo.
    - Team 4109, 808 Robotics, Pearl City, Hawaii
    - Team 2177, The F.I.V.E., from Oconomowoc, Wisc.
    - Team 169Y, The Cavalry, from Haverford, Pa.
    - Team TSM1, Semex1, Tejupilco, Mexico
- **Amaze:**
    - Team 720P, aMAX, from North Shore City, Auckland, New Zealand
    - Team 3057, Tenacious Tech, Mendham, N.J.
    - Team 1900W, Team GMA, College Park, Ga.
    - Team 404D, ECR 404D, from Woodland Hills, Calif.
    - Team 6966A, GONBOTZ, from Mexico
    - Team 80X, VEXMEN:X-23, from Exton, Pa.
    - Team TSEL, Selva, from Chiapas, Mexico
- **Build**:
    - Team 918B, Panther Bots, from Las Vegas, Nev.
    - Team 8066B, Zeus, from Singapore
    - Team 355B, APEX, from Batavia, Ill.
    - Team 2205A, The Pioneers, from Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
    - Team 10D, Exothermic Imension, from Redmond, Wash.
    - Team 1069D, Palladium, from Berthoud, Colo.
    - Team MESS, aMEss, from North Shore City, New Zealand
- **Community**:
    - Team 8058A, The Future, from Singapore
    - Team 2931B, Prime, from Auckland, New Zealand
    - Team 36, Unidentified, from Bloomfield Hills, Mich.

- o Team 81A, VEXMEN: Apocalypse, from Downingtown, Pa.
- o Team 4191, Raptor Robotics, from Monticello, Utah
- o Team 542, WSH Robotics, from Cerritos, Calif.
- **Create**:
  - o Team 8066C, Thor, from Singapore
  - o Team 1001E, Comet Tech, from Greentown, Ind.
  - o Team 2091, FMHS Robotics, from Flower Mound, Texas
  - o Team 44, Green Egg Robotics, from Oakham, Mass.
  - o Team 974, Hazardous, from Loveland, Colo.
  - o Team 1471A, the Third Wave, from Fountain Hills, Ariz.
  - o Team USU, Utah State University, from Logan, Utah
- **Design**:
  - o Team 3876C, Arkham Asylum Members, from Longmont, Colo.
  - o Team 3946A, Sun Devils, from Englewood, Colo.
- **Educate**:
  - o Team 359A, Hawaiian Kids, from Waialua, Hawaii
  - o Team 2273, Caribbean School - ADV MS, from Ponce, Puerto Rico
- **Energy**:
  - o Team 1360, Vibots, from Brandon, Fla.
  - o Team 80N, VEXMEN: Nightcrawler, from Exton, Pa.
  - o Team 4740B, Elroudah2Robots, from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
  - o Team 5589A, Wesley1, from Hong Kong
  - o Team 687N, Cams, from Carson, Calif.
  - o Team 675A, RoboDragons, from Lawrenceville, Ga.
- **Innovate**:
  - o Team 8066B, Zues, from Singapore
  - o Team 575, Exothermic Haiku, from Redmond, Wash.
  - o Team PVTO, Valle De Toluca from Santiaguito Tlalcilalcali Almoloya De Juarez, Mexico
- **Inspire**:
  - o Team 24C, Super Sonic Sparks C, from New Windsor, Md.
- **Judges**:
  - o Team 4318B, Bahrain Unified Team 1, from Manama, Bahrain
  - o Team 4131A, Bears, from Mexico City, Mexico
  - o Team 3685B, Searider Robotics, from Waianae, Hawaii
  - o Team 1241X, Theory6 Robotics, from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
  - o Team 5225A, E-Bots â•¥ - ions, from Ontario, Canada
  - o Team 3116, Control Freaks, from Stevenage, United Kingdom
  - o Team KTOR, Knights of the Olde Robotic, from Exton, Pa.
- **Promote**:
  - o Team 1118 and 1119, Sweetch Robotics, from Mexico City, Mexico
- **Sportsmanship**:
  - o Team 12W, Acme-VEXcellence, from McLean, Va.
  - o Team 8061D, Thundercat9, from Singapore
  - o Team 2921, Free Range Robotics, from North Shore City, Auckland, New Zealand
  - o Team 2218B, UGHS Blackhawks, from San Juan, Puerto Rico
  - o Team 2218A, UGHS Whitehawks, from San Juan, Puerto Rico
  - o Team 2213D, Lucchetti Robotic, from Arecibo, Puerto Rico
  - o Team NYIT, Bears, from Old Westbury, N.Y.
- **Support:**
  - o Team 8068A, Isotope, from Singapore
  - o Team 2281, MASTER1 Robotics Team Inc., from Morovis, Puerto Rico
  - o Team 2213A, Lucchetti Robotic, from Arecibo, Puerto Rico
  - o Team 7008B, PROROBE, from Porto Alegre, Brazil
  - o Team 1200B, Mainframe Meltdown, from Neenah, Wis.
  - o Team 2243B, Cupeyville School, from San Juan, Puerto Rico
- **Teamwork**:

- o Team 4119A, Kohala Middle School, from Kapaau, Hawaii
  - o Team 394, Highlands Inter Robotics, from Pearl City, Hawaii
  - o Team 1437Z, Patriot Robotics, from Calabasas, Calif.
  - o Team 169A, The Cavalry, from Haverford, Pa.
  - o Team 2616, Army of Two, from Cherry Hill, N.J.
  - o Team 2616B, Black Tie Robotics, from Cherry Hill, N.J.
- **Think**:
  - o Team 394B, Highlands Inter Robotics, from Pearl City, Hawaii
  - o Team 4057C, SES-TSAN, from Hong Kong
  - o Team 3129A, Green MacHHHHine,vfrom Mountain View, Calif.
  - o Team 677, Montclair Robotics, from Montclair, N.J.
  - o Team 1241Q, THEORY6, from Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
  - o Team 79C, Krunch, from Tarpon Springs, Fla.
  - o Team TFVZ, TSM2, from Tejupilco, Mexico
- **Robot Skills Champion**:
  - o Team 8066A, Atom, from Singapore
- **Programming Skills Champion:**
  - o Team 5225a, E-Bots Pi-lons, from Oakville, Ontario, Canada
- **Autodesk Inventor Digital Prototyping Challenge:**
  - o Team 550, AURA from Auckland, New Zealand
- **FUTURE Foundation Robot Construction Challenge:**
  - o Team 341, Iron Eagles, from Severn, Md.
- **EMC Robotics Team/Club Website Challenge:**
  - o Team 254, Cheesy Poofs, from San Jose, Calif.
- **RECF Team Educational Video:**
  - o Team 3129A, Green MacHHHHine, Mountain View, Calif.
- **VRC Game Design Animation Challenge:**
  - o Team 575, Exothermic Haiku, from Redmond, Wash.
- **Mentor of the Year**:
  - o Betsy Lamb from Cranbrook Schools in Cranbrook, Mich.
  - o Greg Cheslock from St. Mary Central High School in Neenah, Wisc.
- **Partner of the Year**:
  - o Frank Flores accepted on behalf of the Northrop Grumman Foundation
- **Teacher of the Year**:
  - o Alan Alessi from Team 2273, Caribbean School, Puerto Rico
  - o Megan Connolly from Team 169, The Cavalry, from Haverford Pa.
- **Volunteer of the Year**:
  - o Art Kimura & Renee Kimura from Hawaii
  - o Bart Nash from Carver Robotics Club in Leesburg, Fl.
  - o Greg Phillips from Governor Simcoe Secondary School in Ontario, Canada
- **STEM Hall of Fame Inductees**:
  - o Dave Lavery, Program Executive for Solar System Exploration, NASA
  - o Dr. Douglas Osheroff, co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Physics, Professor at the Department of Physics at Stanford University
  - o Miral Kotb, founder of iLuminate

For more information about the VEX Robotics World Championship and this year's award winners, please visit RobotEvents.com/championship.

About REC Foundation
The REC Foundation, standing for Robotics Education and Competition, is a 501© (3) non-profit organization, supports robotics and technology events and programs that aim to inspire and motivate students to advance in STEM education. In addition to supporting competitions for some of the world's leading robotics platforms and organizations including VEX, TSA, BOTBALL and BEST, the foundation also provides program support and

workshops focused on technology and professional development for educators – including the RobotEvents.com community portal website which helps promote multiple high quality programs and provides online registration and event pages for hundreds of events around the world.

About VEX Robotics
VEX Robotics, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Innovation First International, is a leading provider of educational robotics products to middle schools, high schools and colleges around the world. The VEX Robotics Design System, winner of the 2006 Best of Innovations Award at CES, was built from the ground up and designed to be an affordable, accessible and scalable platform used to teach science, technology, engineering and math education worldwide. The company has over 250 man years of experience supporting educational robotics programs and extensive engineering resources on two continents dedicated to the VEX Robotics platform. For more information on the VEX Robotics Design System, visit www.vexrobotics.com.

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