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TEENS FROM NORTH TEXAS AREA SHOWCASE DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SKILLS AT *FIRST*[®] ROBOTICS COMPETITION – “Rebound RumbleSM”

Students Learn Problem Solving and Teamwork in Addition to Designing and Building Robots by Working with Professional Mentors to participate at Dallas Regional Sponsored by jcpenny, March 30-31

[DALLAS, TEXAS March 30, 2012] — High-school students from five states, three cities in Mexico and Dallas-Fort Worth-area schools will compete on two fields showcasing their hard work after an intense six weeks of designing and building an original robot in the *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (www.usfirst.org). This week, at The Dallas Convention Center, 81 teams of students and engineering and technical Mentors will demonstrate their skill for science, mathematics, and technology. To accommodate growing interest in the program, the Dallas Regional Sponsored by jcpenny will host two competitions on two fields simultaneously! Teams will compete for honors and recognition that reward design excellence, competitive play, sportsmanship, and high-impact partnerships between schools, businesses, and communities.

“As the largest sponsor of *FIRST* teams nationwide, jcpenny is proud that we’re making it possible for more students to get involved in the academic sport of robotics competitions,” said Jodi Gibson vice president of community relations at jcpenny. “The fact that the Dallas Regional sponsored by jcpenny continues to expand to accommodate the rising number of local and out-of-state teams that want to compete here in North Texas is a testament to the impact of *FIRST* and the passion these students have as they set a new standard for ‘cool’ through science and technology.”

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, who introduced the IBOT Mobility System and the Segway[®] Human Transporter (HT), *FIRST* was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools, and their communities. Now in its 21st season, the *FIRST* Robotics Competition anticipates close to 2,343 teams from 49 states in the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey, and the United Kingdom to compete in 52 regional competitions. More than 2,000 students will compete at the Dallas Regional Sponsored by jcpenny to earn a spot at the Championship to be held April 25-28 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis, Mo.

The 2012 “Rebound Rumble” robotics game is played between two Alliances of three teams each. Each Alliance competes by trying to score as many basketballs in the hoops as possible during the two-minute and 15-second match. Balls scored in higher hoops score teams more points in this challenge that uses elements of basketball with additional scoring opportunities of the robot-kind. Team Alliances are awarded bonus points if robots are balanced on bridges at the end of the match.

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“I don’t think any great innovator or technologist got up in the morning trying to do something really big, really innovative, because they wanted a job,” said Dean Kamen, *FIRST* founder and president of DEKA Research & Development Corporation. “If we create a generation of passionate, smart, well-educated, informed kids willing to take educated risks as they try new things. If we create a passionate generation that understands the power of technology and how to apply it, trust me—they’ll have jobs. That’s a consequence of what they’ll have. If *FIRST* succeeds, we’ll have a rebirth of a society that believes in a future that can and has to be better than the past. We’re going to make sure we build a 21st century, a future that’s way more exciting than the 20th century.”

This season, participating *FIRST* students are eligible to apply for more than \$14 million in scholarships from 130 leading universities and colleges.

Over a six-week timeframe, students work with professional engineering Mentors to design a robot that solves a problem using a Kit of Parts and a standard set of rules. Once these young inventors create the robot, their teams participate in regional competitions that measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students.

FIRST Robotics Competition Dallas Regional Sponsored by jcpenney Sponsors and Volunteers come from some of the most highly regarded organizations in the area, including jcpenney, Lockheed Martin, Texas Workforce Commission, Greater Texas Foundation, Raytheon, Connect a Million Minds an Initiative of Time Warner Cable, L-3 Communications, DeVry University, Mouser Electronics and Seimens. Sponsors provide resources including time and talent from professional Mentors, services, equipment, financial contributions, and Volunteers.

ABOUT *FIRST*[®]

Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST*[®] (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from three out of every five Fortune 500 companies and more than \$14 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the [FIRST[®] Robotics Competition \(FRC[®]\)](#) and [FIRST[®] Tech Challenge \(FTC[®]\)](#) for high-school students, [FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League \(FLL[®]\)](#) for 9 to 14-year-olds, (9 to 16-year-olds outside the U.S., Canada, and Mexico) and [Junior FIRST[®] LEGO[®] League \(Jr.FLL[®]\)](#) for 6 to 9-year-olds. Gracious Professionalism[™] is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to www.usfirst.org.

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