

MCC Robotics Team takes top honors at the Dream It Do It Northern MN VEX Robotics Tournament



Teams from Windom Middle School and High School, Grygla Public School and Marshall County Central School.

Team MCC1 from Marshall County Central Schools in Newfolden was named a Tournament Finalist at the Dream It Do It Northern Minnesota VEX Robotics Tournament this past weekend. Other Tournament Finalists were Grygla Public School Robotics and Windom Middle School and High School. The competition was hosted by Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College in Bemidji this past weekend.

To prepare for the competition, teams worked together to design and build a robot using the VEX Robotics Design System. During the morning, MCC1 competed with and against 22 other teams from all over Minnesota, playing Sack Attack, a game which involves students to have their robot pick up and deliver bean bags to the goal in one minute. After the early qualification rounds, the three teams formed a winning alliance, winning all of their elimination rounds until losing the final match against another three-team alliance.

The students applied what they have learned about science, technology, engineering and math in order to build the semi-autonomous machines. An equally important set of skills is learned through the competition—communication, project management, site management and the importance of composure—because students have to learn how to lose as much as they have to learn how to win.

Another team from their final alliance, the Windom Eagles from Windom, Minnesota, won the Excellence Award and an invitation to compete at the World Championships in California in April. Teams from Lancaster, Fisher, St. Cloud and Sartell also won awards. The complete award

list can be found at robotevents.com under event information.

Teams will have another opportunity to compete for the Excellence Award and the chance to compete at the World Championships at the Dream It Do It Central VEX Robotics Tournament on March 2 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, hosted by St. Cloud Technical and Community College. Qualification rounds begin at 10:00 a.m. The event is free to the public.

The Dream It Do It Northern and Central VEX Robotics Tournament are part of a series of VEX Robotics Competitions taking place internationally throughout the year. VEX Robotics is the world's fastest growing competitive robotics program for middle schools, high schools and colleges around the world, with more than 5,000 teams from 30 countries that participate in more than 350 VEX Robotics Competition events worldwide. The competition season culminates each Spring, with the laudable VEX Robotics World Championship event, uniting top qualifying teams from local, state and international VEX Robotics Competitions.

Dream It Do It collaborates with industry members to promote careers in manufacturing in Minnesota, including robotic events like this tournament. The initiative is led by 360° Manufacturing and Applied Engineering ATE Regional Center of Excellence at Bemidji State University, and also includes Northwest Technical College, Northland Community and Technical College and seven other technical and community colleges.

More information about Dream It Do It is available at dreamitdoitmn.com, and more information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at RobotEvents.com.