

**MEDIA INFORMATION  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 23, 2014**

## **“Co-opertition” and impressive turnout highlight end of the year FIRST Robotics celebrations**

Jackson, Mich.—Recent year-end events topped off the successful 2013-14 season for Jackson FIRST Robotics teams throughout the county, providing students the opportunity to showcase and compete against fellow teams, while attending community members were able to quickly learn and understand what keeps the popular program growing year after year.

Several middle school robotics teams from around both the county and the state came to Columbia Middle School for the FIRST Robotics “Block Party,” held on May 3. The event was hugely successful, with eight teams participating and over 230 attendants.

Each participating team belongs to the FIRST Technical Challenge (FTC), which is designed for students in grades 6-8 to compete head-to-head. Teams were tasked with using engineering principals to design, build, and program their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Awards were given for the competition as well as for community outreach, design, and other real-world accomplishments.

The event was sponsored by the State of Michigan, the Jackson County Intermediate School District and Michigan Automotive Compressor, Inc. Other local companies sponsored and supported local teams through materials, mentorship, and financial support.

The most recent event, held on May 14, invited all current Jackson County teams to the Consumers Energy Plaza to participate in the Consumers Energy Robotics Fair. The teams were able to showcase the positive experiences they had during the season and were allowed to provide robot demonstrations to an audience of nearly 150 people.

“All teams distinguished themselves,” said Jackson Area Career Center FIRST Robotics mentor William Farrant. “Parents, teachers and students should all feel rightfully proud of their accomplishments.”

The event featured several rounds of team judging and practice before all teams competed on the field—each demonstrating support of each other alongside excellent gracious professionalism and “co-opertition” – two major principles of FIRST Robotics.

As part of the Robotics Fair, Consumers also honored several teams with accolades and awards.

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*See below for participant/winner table, photos and captions.*

**For more information**

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**FIRST Robotics Block Party Awards****Middle School Level**

FTC Team Number District	Team Name	Award (if applicable)
FTC Team 6461 Western Middle School	<i>Panthers</i>	
FTC Team 6523 Columbia Middle School	<i>Abeators</i>	Judges Award
FTC Team 6736 Hanover Horton Middle School	<i>Cyber-Comets</i>	Gracious Professionalism
FTC Team 6750 Paragon Academy	<i>Paragon Cyber-Panthers</i>	Connect; Winning Alliance
FTC Team 6811 Concord Community Middle School	<i>Hardcore Hard Drives</i>	Think
FTC Team 7360 Grass Lake Middle School	<i>Robo YOLO!</i>	Inspire; Winning Alliance
FTC Team 7668 East Jackson Middle School	<i>Trojanbots</i>	Control; Winning Alliance
FTC Team 8142 Northwest Middle School	<i>Mounties</i>	Finalist Alliance

**Consumer's Energy Robotics Fair Participants and Awards****Middle School Level**

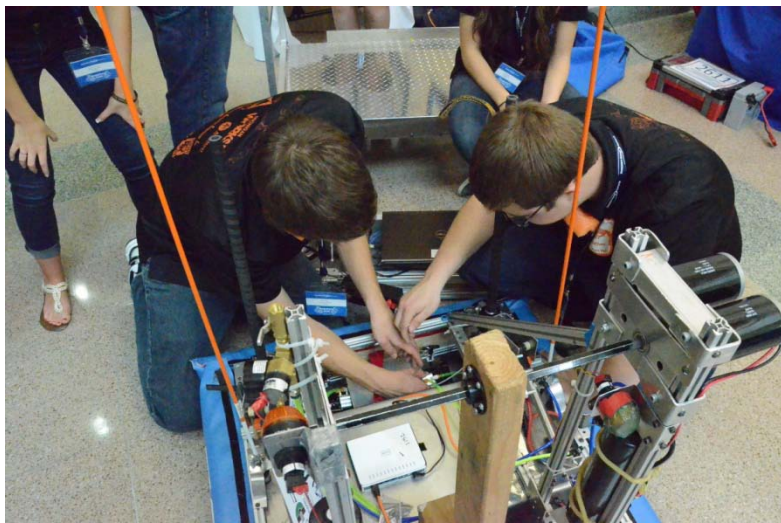
FTC Team Number District	Team Name	Award (if applicable)
FTC Team 6461 Western Middle School	<i>Panthers</i>	
FTC Team 6523 Columbia Middle School	<i>Abeators</i>	Winner Best Presentation
FTC Team 6736 Hanover Horton Middle School	<i>Cyber-Comets</i>	Winner Most Complete Design
FTC Team 6750 Paragon Academy	<i>Paragon Cyber-Panthers</i>	
FTC Team 6811 Concord Community Middle School	<i>Hardcore Hard Drives</i>	Winner Most Creative
FTC Team 7360 Grass Lake Middle School	<i>Robo YOLO!</i>	
FTC Team 7668 East Jackson Middle School	<i>Trojanbots</i>	
FTC Team 8142 Northwest Middle School	<i>Mounties</i>	

**High School Level**

FRC Team 2611 Jackson Area Career Center	<i>Jacktown Vectors</i>	
FRC Team 4612 East Jackson High School	<i>Blue -Ops</i>	
FRC Team 5205 Concord Community High School	<i>CHS Full Metal Jackets</i>	
FRC Team 5233 Columbia Central High School	<i>Golden Eagles</i>	



*Photo series 1, Above:* (From top to bottom) Student competitors and spectators gather during the practice rounds before the FIRST Robotics FTC Block Party competition; Students from Paragon and East Jackson Middle School compete head-to-head during a competition round; FTC Awards waiting to be handed out.



*Photo series 2, Above:* (from top to bottom) Two middle school students from Western middle school demonstrate their team robot's capabilities at the Consumers Energy Robotics Fair; Two students from the Jackson Area Career Center Jacktown Vectors demonstrating co-operation as they work on to support another team's robot; Jacktown Vectors stop for a group shot at the Consumer's Energy Robotics Fair.