

For immediate release

March 5, 2009

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Queen of Peace students seeded as a top team at robotics competition

The Queen of Peace High School Robotics Team, RoboPRIDE, made history recently when they placed third among 53 teams after the preliminary rounds at the Midwest Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition at University of Illinois, Chicago.

After the seeding rounds, alliances were formed. The Peace Robotics Team made it to the after close competitions semi-finals in the quarter-finals.

Peace's 20-member team was recognized as the highest seeded rookie team and earned the Rookie Inspiration Award for outstanding effort in community outreach and recruiting students to engineering. The *FIRST*, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, organization held several regional competitions across the U.S. on Feb. 26-28. Both private and public schools and community teams competed.

"The creative and upcoming engineering women of Peace were only one of two all-women teams who entered the competition," President/Principal Kathleen Hanlon said.

"The months of collaboration, focus, mentoring and time commitment is evident with the results of this rigorous competition."

Spectator and *FIRST* competition advocate Dottie Skierkiewicz said she was impressed with how the Peace women performed.

"Their enthusiasm was infectious to all who talked to them," Ms. Skierkiewicz said. "To go so far in the competition is wonderful."

In 2008-09, Peace expanded its pre-engineering curriculum to include robotics in the classroom and as a co-curricular activity.

“Students who attend a FIRST Robotics event are hooked because it’s really fun,” said team adviser Karen Amador, Peace physics teacher. “There is also a lot of work to do for all kinds of students, not just those interested in engineering. Teams have many jobs, including building, programming, strategizing, cheering, designing, publicizing, record keeping, planning the logistics and even supplying refreshments. All this happens with the spirit of gracious professionalism.”

Team members who participated were:

Seniors – Angela Amador (Hickory Hills), Candice Bilina (61st and South Natchez, Chicago), Tara Becker (Burbank), Amanda Ranftl (4200 block of West 82nd, Chicago) Monika Murzydlo (Bridgeview).

Juniors – Julia Amador (Hickory Hills), Rana Mazen-Abdellatif (Chicago, 55th and South Albany), Michael Strauch (Hickory Hills)

Sophomores – Dana Testa (Hometown), Lindsey Frederick (Oak Lawn)

Frosh – Mary Kate McKeown (Evergreen Park), Amber Vaughan (Justice) and Krystina Scott (Chicago, 81st and South Kenwood), DyAnna Augustus (1000 block of East 80th, Chicago), Katherine Hennelly (Burbank), Davonna Harris (3900 block of West 84th Street).