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Contact: Mrs. Kidada Simmons, Teacher, McCollough/Unis Middle School

(313) 827- 8050 SimmonK@dearbornschools.org

David Mustonen, Communications Director

(313) 827-3006 [MustonD@dearbornschools.org](mailto:MustonD@dearbornschools.org)

<http://communications.dearbornschools.org/>

[www.DearbornSchools.org](http://www.DearbornSchools.org)

**Students First-**

***Inspire, Educate, Celebrate***

**Robots Will Battle In Dearborn!**

***-FIRST FTC Competition to be held May 13, 2017 at McCollough Unis Middle School***

Up to 25 teams from across the state and region will take part in the FIRST (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Competition at McCollough Unis School, 7801 Maple St, Dearborn 48126. Opening ceremonies are tentatively scheduled to get under way at 10:30 am on Saturday, May 13, 2017 with the first round of competition starting around thirty minutes later.

FIRST Tech Challenge is a student-centered activity that provides students with the opportunity to work in teams and participate in a game that requires them to design, build, test, and program autonomous and driver-operated robots that must perform a series of tasks. The event at McCollough/Unis will pit teams against each other in the Velocity Vortex Competition and will be a post season match with judging, scoring, & awards but without advancement. Each match takes place on a designated field of play, and teams earn points by having their robots overcome obstacles and meet challenges.

The team from McCollough Unis, the McU-Bots, are gearing up to host this huge event.

“We’re very excited to be hosting this event. Our team, the students at McCollough Unis, many parents, and our staff are all pitching in and putting in the extra hours needed to make sure all the details are in place and the school is ready to go on May 13,” commented Kidada Simmons, Teacher and McU-Bots Robotics Coach.

Anyone interested in working at the event can contact Mrs. Simmons at (313) 827-8050 or visit <http://www.mcubots.us/home> to volunteer or get more information on the event.

The McU-Bots started in the fall of 2015 and walked away with a 5th place finish in only their second season of competition. Participation in FTC Robotics competition allows student scientist/engineers in the Dearborn Public Schools to apply the Michigan’s Science Standards in an extracurricular activity. Students also develop a greater appreciation of science and technology and how they might use that knowledge to impact the world around them in a positive manner. Working as a team helps to build life skills such as planning, brainstorming, creative problem-solving, and collaboration.

To learn more about FIRST Tech Challenge and other FIRST Programs, visit [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)

*(Photo Caption- Four of the members from the McU-Bots team with the robot they built and programmed in only six weeks. The team was able to earn a respectable 5th place finish, out of 36 teams competing, in Howell, Michigan last December.)*

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