

# Elmira City School District



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Elmira City School District

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### Express Robotics Club Takes Top Honors at the Catskills Bot Battle Vex Robotics Competition and Heads to the State Championship

*Elmira Team Aims to Qualify For a Spot at the VEX Robotics World Championship*

**ELMIRA, NY, December 5, 2017** – Elmira High School's students from the Express Robotics Club, VEX Robotics teams 14904A and 14904B, qualified for the Northern New York State Robotics Championships at the VEX Robotics Competition that took place in Fallsburg, NY this past weekend. Students competed with and against 24 teams from 10 organizations. The action-packed day required middle and high school students to execute the 2017-2018 VEX Robotics Competition game, *In the Zone*, which is played by stacking cones on goals, by scoring cones on mobile goals in goal zones, by having the highest stacks, and by parking robots.

Express Team 14904B (Kirstin Laird, Michelle Noyes, Travis Osborne, Isaiah Roe, Jeremiah Walborn, and Justin Williams) finished the preliminary rounds in 6th place with a record of 5 wins and 3 losses and were members of the 4th seeded alliance. Although they were eliminated in the quarterfinals, the team won the Design Award, which is "presented to a team that demonstrates an organized and professional approach to the design process, project and time management and team organization." This award takes into consideration their Engineering Notebook and a Judges Interview. This is the second time the Express Robotics Club has won a Design Award.

Express team 14904A (Phoenix Andrews, Aaron Ellis, Brian Robinson, Jasmine Scott, Jacob Singer, Alfred Stephenson, and Tristan Winnert) finished the preliminary rounds in 3rd place with a record of 7-1 (including the second highest score of the day) and were chosen to be in the 2nd seeded alliance. Team 14904A, along with their alliance partners from Granville Jr/Sr High School and Monticello High School, went undefeated in the elimination matches, and was crowned tournament champions. This is the first tournament championship for the Express Robotics Club.

To prepare for the tournament, the group worked together to design, build and program a robot using VEX EDR, that could quickly and efficiently solve specific challenges that come with playing the 2017-2018 VEX Robotics Competition game, *In the Zone*.

Each week, the students apply what they've learned about STEM in the classroom, to build the semiautonomous machines. An equally important set of skills is learned through the competition -- communication, project management, time management and teamwork.

Technology Teacher Nathan Smith, the team's advisor said, "I am proud of these students for their ability to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to building and programming a competition robot from ideation to completion. It's been remarkable to see what they've accomplished in just a few months and inspiring to think about the positive impact they will have on the world around them."

Elmira High School's VEX Robotics Competition teams meet after school 2-3 days per week. The students learn about electronics, programming, mechanical systems, animation, 3D CAD, web design, and materials fabrication. Many of the team members plan to go on to college and major in robotics, computer programming or an engineering-related field, utilizing the skills they acquired on our robotics team.

The Robotics Education & Competition Foundation manages the VEX Robotics Competition, which thousands of schools participate in around the world each year. Dan Mantz, CEO of the REC Foundation, said, "As an experienced robotics mentor, I've seen firsthand the engineering skill and leadership expertise that students gain by participating in the VEX Robotics Competition. It's an experience that will stay with them long after their school days are over, offering a new appreciation for STEM and laying a strong foundation of critical problem-solving, communication and teamwork skills that will serve them well throughout their lives."

The Express Robotics teams will be competing in two more competitions before the state championships: B'Ville In the Zone in Baldwinsville, NY, on January 20, 2017, and hosting the upcoming Express VEX Robotics Competition on February 3, 2017 in the Elmira High School Gym. The event is open and free for media, families, and other community members to attend.

The Catskills Bot Battle is one of a series of VEX Robotics Competitions taking place internationally throughout the year. VEX Competitions are recognized as the largest and fastest growing competitive robotics programs for elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and college aged students around the world. VEX Competitions represent over 20,000 teams from 45 countries that participate in more than 1,500 VEX Competition events worldwide. The competition season culminates each spring, with VEX Robotics World Championship, a highly-anticipated event that unites top qualifying teams from local, state, regional and international VEX Robotics Competitions to crown World Champions. More information about the VEX Robotics Competition is available at [RoboticsEducation.org](http://RoboticsEducation.org), [RobotEvents.com](http://RobotEvents.com) and [VEXRobotics.com](http://VEXRobotics.com).

### **About the REC Foundation**

The REC Foundation seeks to increase student interest and involvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by engaging students in hands-on, sustainable and affordable curriculum-based robotics engineering programs across the U.S. and internationally. Its goal is to provide these programs with services, solutions, and a community that allows them to flourish in a way that fosters the technical and interpersonal skills necessary for students to succeed in the 21st Century. The REC Foundation develops partnerships with K-12 education, higher education, government, industry, and the non-profit community to achieve this work so that one day these programs will become accessible to all students and all schools in all communities. For more information on REC Foundation, visit [www.RoboticsEducation.org](http://www.RoboticsEducation.org).

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**Image caption:** Student-designed robot built and programmed to compete in this year's game. The robot runs for up to 90-seconds based on a computer program designed by students.

## **ABOUT THE ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Elmira City School District is a dynamic and innovative learning organization dedicated to developing learners of character who value their educational experience and can compete globally and contribute locally by collaborating with students, families, and community partners to provide meaningful opportunities in a safe and engaging environment for all.

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