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WHO: Student bot builders

WHAT: see real-world robotics applications

WHEN: March 25, 2017, 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

WHERE: Olathe Northwest High School, Olathe, Kansas

HOW: with a visit from the da Vinci Xi surgical robot at the annual BotsKC competition

Kansas City, MO (March 7, 2017) Area students have been busy building robots to compete in the third annual BotsKC competition scheduled for March 25, 2017. Twenty teams are current schedule to compete in the gladiator-style bot battle which promises to be as entertaining as it is educational. However, those in attendance will get an added treat this year when they encounter a visiting robot that has amazing real-world applications.

BotsKC is pleased to welcome the da Vinci Xi surgical robot to this year's competition. The famous da Vinci xi robot is revolutionizing the way doctors perform surgery. This robot makes surgery minimally invasive and has helped more than 3 million patients around the world.

"The da Vinci robot is really impressive to behold," said BotsKC director, Torree Pederson. "We wanted to include a display with the wow-factor for our students this year. Now that they understand what it takes to build a basic bot, we want to give them a visual. The sky really is the limit, and they are the future."

In its third year, BotsKC, pairs student bot builders with area manufacturing companies. High school and college teams have worked for the last six months to design and build a lightweight robot for an event being heralded as *Everyone's Sport*. BotsKC pits bot against bot for a battle to the finish. The regional competition will be held at Olathe Northwest High School.

While students enjoy the sport of building, the competition was created to teach valuable skills in science, technology, engineering and math. Area manufacturers want students to experience how exciting it is to design and create. The "guest robot" adds another layer to the event. While students are building robots to destroy today, they may someday use their knowledge to build bots to heal.

BotsKC is a project of the Kansas City Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association. The regional competition which will begin at 11:30 AM on March 25 is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. For more information, visit the BotsKC website at: www.BotsKC.org.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

FEEL THE IMPACT.

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