



Oregon
University
System

Media Alert

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Robotics teams compete two against two at the Oregon Block Party! Tournament *Top teams will advance to the Super-Regional Championship after the State Championship Tournament*

WHEN: Sunday, March 2, 2014, 11:00 am–5:00 pm. Open and FREE to the public.

WHERE: Benson Polytechnic High School, 546 NE 12th Ave, Portland, OR 97232

WHAT: **FIRST Tech Challenge Championship Tournament.** Families, the general public, and reporters are invited to attend the state championship robotics tournaments for *FIRST* Tech Challenge, where they can watch a competition of custom robots built by the top 50 robotics teams throughout the Oregon and SW Washington. Each team is made up of students in grades 7 through 12, who start the season in the fall by designing and programming a unique robot using a robotics kit called Tetrax. The participating teams have already excelled by competing with their robots at qualifying tournaments over the previous eight weeks. In this year's Block Party! Challenge, teams place blocks in baskets that are balanced on a "see-saw", while keeping it in balance. Another highlight of the competition will be robots lifting themselves off the ground for bonus points by doing a "chin up." This year's Championship Tournament will be divided into two divisions named after famous engineers with Portland connections: Howard Vollum, **Tektronix** co-founder and Gordon Moore, **Intel** co-founder.

WHO: Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP) offers the *FIRST* Tech Challenge pre-engineering program to help students in grades 8 through 12 begin exploring technical careers. **Oregon boasts one of the largest *FIRST* Tech Challenge programs in the nation** with over 175 teams. Oregon technology companies and volunteers collaborate with the Oregon University System to implement the program to help young people get excited about science and engineering. Teams who participate in *FIRST* Tech Challenge or *FIRST* Robotics Competition have the opportunity to apply for college scholarships reserved specifically for them at prestigious universities around the country, including many in Oregon.

ORTOP thanks its generous sponsors for this event, particularly Rockwell Collins as the presenting sponsor. For more information on the program go to: www.ortop.org.

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