



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**March 8, 2017**

Callen Fairchild Zind | [czind@kcstem.org](mailto:czind@kcstem.org)  
816-564-9511

## **Rigors of science meet the excitement of sport during STEAMPUNK-themed challenge at Greater KC Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition**

**What:** More than 1,000 students from 60 teams face off in the Greater Kansas City Regional *FIRST* Robotics Competition. This high-tech event combines the rigors of science with the excitement of sport and the public is encouraged to attend, catch the excitement of this intense competition and cheer on their favorite teams. Admission is free.

Under strict rules, limited resources and the guidance of volunteer mentors including engineers, teachers, business professionals, parents, alumni and more, teams of 25+ students have just six weeks to build and program robots to perform challenging tasks against a field of competitors. They must also raise funds, design a team brand, hone teamwork skills and perform community outreach. In addition to learning valuable Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) and life skills, participants are eligible to apply for \$25+ million in college scholarships.

Each annual competition involves a new themed challenge. In this year's *FIRST STEAMPUNKS*, two alliances of three robots each will prepare their steam-powered era "airships" for the ultimate long distance race. The alliance with the highest score at the end of the match is best prepared for the race and wins. Teams are vying for a series of regional awards and a spot at the *FIRST*® Championship April 26-29 in St. Louis, Mo.

### **When:**

<b>Thursday, March 16</b>	8:30-11 a.m. - Robot testing and inspection Noon-6:30 p.m. – Practice rounds
<b>Friday, March 17</b>	8:30–9 a.m. – Opening ceremonies 9 a.m.-noon and 1-6 p.m. - Qualifying matches 6-6:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony
<b>Saturday, March 18</b>	8:30 a.m. - Opening ceremonies 9 a.m.-Noon. - Qualifying matches 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. - Final rounds 4:30-6:30 p.m. – Awards and closing ceremonies

**Where:** Metropolitan Community College-Business & Technology Campus  
1775 Universal Ave., Kansas City, Mo.

- more -

**Details:** Admission is free. More information: [www.kcfirst.org](http://www.kcfirst.org)

**Photo Opps:** Students testing, tuning up, and competing with their robots. Watch student teams of two alliances with three robots each score as many points as possible. Mentors, school groups, school mascots, family, and fans are cheering on the teams.

**FRIDAY:** See high school students showcase their work to younger students touring the competition as part of a field trip.

# # #

### **About KC STEM Alliance**

KC STEM Alliance is a collaborative network of educators, business partners and organizations working to generate a robust workforce of professionals in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math for the greater Kansas City region. KC STEM Alliance staff members are the regional representatives for *FIRST* Robotics and *FIRST* LEGO LEAGUE for Western Missouri and Kansas.

**About *FIRST*<sup>®</sup>** Accomplished inventor [Dean Kamen](#) founded *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. Based in Manchester, N.H., *FIRST* designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology, and engineering. With support from over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies and more than \$25 million in college scholarships, the not-for-profit organization hosts the *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> [Robotics Competition](#) for students in Grades 9-12; *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> [Tech Challenge](#) for Grades 7-12; *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> [LEGO<sup>®</sup> League](#) for Grades 4-8; and *FIRST*<sup>®</sup> [LEGO<sup>®</sup> League Jr.](#) for Grades K-3. *Gracious Professionalism*<sup>®</sup> is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. To learn more about *FIRST*, go to [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org)