

**FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for MANUFACTURING EDUCATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Florida Robotics Invitational: A Confluence of Science, Technology and Innovation

“Engineering and Innovation” are two sides of the same coin. FLATE, the Center for Manufacturing Education is assisting several schools to participate in a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) off-season event, featuring the 2007 FRC (*First Robotics Competition*) game challenge - Rack 'N' Roll; the FVC challenge (*First Vex Challenge*) - Hangin' a Round; and the FLL(*First Lego League*) challenge - Nano Quest.

The competitions create a unique varsity sport for the mind and are scheduled to take place September 28-29, at the University of South Florida “Sun Dome” in Tampa. This off-season event is the brain-child of USF’s College of Engineering and East Lake High School’s Robotics program, Team 79. The two-day event brings the very best FRC, FVC and FLL teams from across the country to compete with each other in a series of challenges. Each team will build robots from a standard set of parts and enter them in competitions designed by Dean Kamen, Dr. Woodie Flowers and a committee of engineering professionals.

The **FRC** is designed to inspire high school students to pursue careers in engineering by giving them a real-world experience in designing and building robots. It is a collaborated effort between mentors (corporate employees, teachers, or college students) and high school students.

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The *FVC*, is a similar mid-level robotics competition targeted towards high-school students. It is another avenue for students to discover the rewards of science, technology, and engineering. The *FLL* is designed for elementary and middle school students. Each of these challenges involves designing and building robots to complete a set of assigned tasks. Additionally, students also give a brief presentation on the techniques required and utilized to complete the tasks at hand.

Participants will also get the opportunity to tour the world-renowned robotics and engineering labs at USF. The two day schedule includes twilight practice rounds, overview of the upcoming 2008 FVC and FLL challenges, and a full day of FIRST competitions. Registration for each FRC team is \$300, and admission is free for the public. For additional details, or if you would like to volunteer and be a part of this exciting event, please email Paul Wahnish at

Barefo6529@aol.com or visit: <http://www.roboticsboosters.com/offseasonevent/>

FLATE (Florida - Advanced Technological Education) Center for Manufacturing Education is a National Science Foundation center, committed to ensuring that Florida manufacturing has a well prepared workforce. It advances this mission through three principal initiatives: 1) promotion of technologically oriented manufacturing and technology careers to middle and secondary school students, 2) professional development of teachers throughout the K-16 educational system, 3) reform and realignment of the curriculum that defines Florida's academic programs related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, it is one of 33 in the United States focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education to meet the needs of American advanced-technology industries. For more information, please visit: www.fl-ate.org