

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Monrovia Unified Robotics Teams Advance to World Championships, Netherlands

MONROVIA – Three Monrovia Unified robotics teams are gearing up to compete in different parts of the world after demonstrating technical proficiency in competitions and showing remarkable communication on the benefits of pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects to fellow students and the community.

The Suitbots and Droidnoughts from Monrovia High School will advance to the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) World Championships in Houston on April 18 and the Hippy Bots from Clifton Middle School will travel to the Netherlands to compete in the FTC Dutch Open Championship on May 19 and 20.

“Monrovia Unified has so many talented students, and they continue to reach new heights every year,” Monrovia Unified Board President Bryan Wong said. “I have complete confidence that our teams will make our District proud in Houston and the Netherlands.”

The Suitbots earned their spot in the Houston World Championships after winning the Connect Award at the Feb. 26 Los Angeles Regional Championships, qualifying them for the western Super-Regional Championships in Tacoma, Washington, March 10 through 12. The Suitbots won seven out of nine competitions in Tacoma, placing them in seventh and earning them a spot in Houston.

The Droidnoughts, who also advanced through the L.A. Regional Championships, were one of 20 teams from the western United States to receive an invitation to the World Championships through the FTC lottery process.

“The most important part of our robotics program is ensuring our students are well-rounded in robotics and community outreach, which teach them life lessons they can’t get anywhere else,” Monrovia Unified robotics coordinator Tom Dobson said. “I am looking forward to seeing where our teams advance to next.”

The Clifton Middle School Hippy Bots are also preparing to compete in far-away places, receiving a special invitation to the FTC Dutch Open Championship, where the eighth-grade team will test its skills against high schoolers and college students as the only American robotics teams to compete.

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Inspire students to engage in meaningful learning in a safe and nurturing environment that embraces diversity.

Challenge students to be ethical, productive members and leaders of the community.

OUR VISION

Our students will be ethical, compassionate individuals who:

- graduate from high school prepared for college and career,
- contribute and adapt to an ever-changing world by being resourceful and responsible citizens, and
- embrace diversity.

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At the L.A. Regional Championships, the Hippy Bots showed strong leadership as alliance captains, making it into the quarterfinals.

“It has been inspiring to watch the evolution of this all-rookie team. They are great kids – always willing to help other young teams,” Clifton robotics mentor Paul Flores said. “A world-class team requires a world-class effort from everyone.”

Monrovia Unified’s robotics activities are held after school and give students the opportunity to design, build and program robots and compete in a game challenge. In addition to building robots, teammates take part in community outreach and record their connections to the engineering community, innovation, design process and programming skills in an engineering notebook, which is also a part of the FTC competition judging criteria.

Monrovia High School students and mentors are instrumental in mentoring and spreading robotics throughout Monrovia Unified School District, hosting younger peers in middle and elementary school for workshops and build sessions.

“Our robotics teams have flourished under the leadership of our robotics mentors, who work tirelessly to bring STEM experiences to our students,” Monrovia Unified Superintendent Dr. Katherine Thorossian said. “These sparks of passion often turn into career explorations for our students, and we will ensure all students have these outlets to discover their interests as early on as possible.”

All three teams are currently raising funds for their trips. To support the Monrovia High Suitbots and Droidnoughts, visit <http://bit.ly/2mJ3CFQ>. To support the Clifton Hippy Bots, visit <http://bit.ly/2njYQmv>.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

032317_MUSD_ROBOT1: The Monrovia High Suitbots robotics team qualified for the FIRST Tech Challenge World Championships in Houston on April 18 after winning the Connect Award at the Los Angeles Regional Championships and placing seventh in its division at the Tacoma, Washington Super-Regional Championships.

032317_MUSD_ROBOT2: The Monrovia High Droidnoughts robotics team, which advanced through the L.A. Regional Championships, was one of 20 teams from the western United States to receive an invitation to the Houston World Championships on April 18 through the FIRST Tech Challenge lottery process.

032317_MUSD_ROBOT3: The Clifton Middle School Hippy Bots robotics team received a special invitation to the May 19-20 FIRST Tech Challenge Dutch Open Championship in the Netherlands.

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