



# Brooklyn Middle Schools Seal Top Honors at Robotics Challenge

By Vinti Vaid

The 11th annual Brooklyn qualifying round of the [FIRST](#) (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League (FLL) [robotics](#) challenge, held at the gymnasium of the Polytechnic Institute of [New York University \(NYU-Poly\)](#), was attended by more than 400 Brooklyn middle schoolers.

The competition ended with 22 teams making it to the Citywide FLL Robotics final in March.

Equipped with kits and instructions, high school students from 38 different schools will spend the next eight weeks preparing for the intense competition, which will require them to create and program their robots to hang geometric shapes on a grid during the citywide FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC).

Egged on by enthusiastic teachers, parents, and team mascots, 37 teams competed in this year's FLL Brooklyn Qualifier, to design and program small LEGO [robots](#) that could successfully conduct bio-medical tasks such as stinging blocked arteries and fixing broken bones. The students also presented research papers on bio-medical topics.

The FLL Brooklyn Qualifier witnessed maximum participation from Brooklyn schools. Due to the shortage in slots, a number of Brooklyn schools will be competing in Manhattan and Staten Island FLL qualifiers later this month.

The Champions Award at the event was bagged by the P.S. 11, Team: Mission 11, with second and third places going to Genesis Xaverian, Team: Genesis and I.S. 318, Team: Blood, Sweat and Gearz, respectively.

The team that got the research awards were Urban Assembly Institute of Math & Science for Young Women, Team: Super Novas first place followed by I.S. 383, Team: Sky Bots and P.S. 58, Team: Bionic Boys at second and third place, while P.S. 372, Team: Body Builders and P.S. 9, Team: Electrical Mines made it to the fourth and fifth spot.


The Robot Design awards went to the M.S.113, Team: Falcon Robotic Allstars, with Home Schoolers of Brooklyn making it to the second spot followed by Bedford Academy, Team: Bedford Bots, Mott Hall Bridges Academy and P.S. 3, Team: Robot Tigers coming in at third, fourth and fifth spot.

The Teamwork recognition went to P.S. 5, Team: LEGO Rockets first place, P.S. 147, Team: Bot Bots Bots second place and, P.S. 233, Team: LEGO Minds third place.

Judges' Award went to P.S. 8, Team: 8 Bots while Performance Awards went to P.S. 94, Team: Amazon Warriors first place, P.S. 94, Team: Master Blasters second place, P.S. 372, Monster Machines third place with P.S. 636, Team: Boogie Bots and P.S. 21, Team: The Panthers making it to the fourth and fifth place.

Jerry Hultin, president of NYU-Poly said that the purpose of the FIRST robotics events was to encourage and initiate young minds into science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) streams at a crucial time in their education which could lead to the opening of different career paths. He also added that NYU-Poly was committed to excellence in STEM subjects and that it was rewarding for both the faculty and graduate fellows to support a new generation of scientists and engineers through the competition.

Among the 16 FLL teams mentored by NYU-Poly graduate fellows, 13 advanced to the citywide finals.

Sponsors to this year's FIRST events at NYU-Poly were Time Warner ([News](#)  [Alert](#)) Cable's East Region/NYC, Consolidated Edison, Swiss Re and the David L. Klein Jr. Foundation; NYU-Poly is the affiliate partner.

NYU-Poly supports robotics/mechatronics initiatives in 18 low-income schools as part of the Central Brooklyn STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Initiative (CBSI). The initiative is a public-private partnership supported by The [Black Male Donor Collaborative](#), the [Brooklyn Community Foundation](#), [Motorola Foundation](#), [J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation](#), [XEROX Foundation](#), [NY Space Grant Consortium](#) and [Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate](#), and the supporting graduate fellows program receives major funding from [National Science Foundation's](#) GK-12 Fellows Program.

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